



House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio speaks on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

GOP SNUB

WASHINGTON (AP) — A top Republican declared that "no substantive progress has been made" in two weeks of talks between President Barack Obama and a divided Congress on looming austerity measures that threaten to send the country back into recession if a deal can't be made to avoid them by the end of the year.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner's comment Thursday came after a closed-door discussion with Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner.

"Unfortunately, many Democrats continue to rule out sensible spending cuts that must be part of any significant agreement that will reduce our deficit," Boehner declared. Democrats swiftly replied that any delay in progress was the fault of Republicans who refuse to accept Obama's call to raise tax rates on the richest Americans.

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Members of the Palestinian delegation react as they surround Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, center, applauding, during a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly after a vote on a resolution on the issue of upgrading the Palestinian Authority's status to non-member observer state passed in the United Nations in New York, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

(AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

UN recognizes state of Palestine; US objects

EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a long-sought victory for the Palestinians and an embarrassing diplomatic defeat for the United States.

The resolution upgrading the Palestinians' status to a nonmember observer

state at the U.N. was approved by a vote of 138-9, with 41 abstentions, in the 193-member world body.

A Palestinian flag was quickly unfurled on the floor of the General Assembly, behind the Palestinian delegation. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds crowded into the main square waved Palestinian flags and chanted "God

is great." Others who had watched the vote on outdoor screens and television sets hugged, honked and set off fireworks before dancing in the streets.

Real independence, however, remains an elusive dream until the Palestinians negotiate a peace deal with the Israelis, who warned that the General Assembly action will only

delay a lasting solution. Israel still controls the West Bank, east Jerusalem and access to Gaza, and it accused the Palestinians of bypassing negotiations with the campaign to upgrade their U.N. status.

The Palestinians still face enormous limitations.

Continued on Page 3



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UN recognizes state of Palestine; US objects

Continued from front

They don't control their borders, airspace or trade, they have separate and competing governments in Gaza and the West Bank and they have no unified army or police.

The United States immediately criticized the historic vote. "Today's unfortunate and counterproductive resolution places further obstacles in the path peace," U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice said. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called the vote "unfortunate" and "counterproductive."

The United States and Israel voted against recognition, joined by Canada, the Czech Republic, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and Panama. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the speech by Palestinian

President Mahmoud Abbas to the General Assembly shortly before the vote "defamatory and venom-

less.

Abbas had told the General Assembly that it was "being asked today to is-



Palestinians wave Palestinian flags as they watch a large screen showing the U.N. General Assembly votes on a resolution to upgrade the status of the Palestinian Authority to a nonmember observer state, in the west bank city of Ramallah, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

(AP Photo/Majdi Mohammed)

ous," saying it was "full of mendacious propaganda" against Israel. Netanyahu called the vote meaning-

sue the birth certificate of Palestine." Abbas said the vote is the last chance to save the two-state solution.

After the vote, Netanyahu said the U.N. move violated past agreements between Israel and the Palestinians and that Israel would act accordingly, without elaborating what steps it might take. Thursday's vote came on the same day, Nov. 29, that the U.N. General Assembly in 1947 voted to recognize a partitioned state in Palestine, with the jubilant revelers then Jews. The Palestinians rejected that partition plan, and decades of tension and violence followed.

Just before Thursday's vote, Israel's U.N. ambassador, Ron Prosor, warned the General Assembly that "the Palestinians are turning their backs on peace" and that the U.N. can't break the 4,000-year-old bond between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. The vote had been certain to succeed, with

most member states sympathetic to the Palestinians. Several key countries, including France, this week announced they would support the move to elevate the Palestinians from the status of U.N. observer to nonmember observer state. Unlike the more powerful U.N. Security Council, there are no vetoes in the General Assembly, and the resolution to raise the Palestinian status only required a majority vote for approval. The vote grants Abbas an overwhelming international endorsement for his key position: establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, the territories captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war. With Netanyahu opposed to a pullback to the 1967 lines, this should strengthen Abbas' hand if peace talks resume. □

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This photo provided by Jennifer Foster shows New York City Police Officer Larry DePrimo presenting a barefoot homeless man in New York's Time Square with boots Nov. 14, 2012. She took the picture on her cellphone.

(AP Photo/Jennifer Foster)

NYPD officer's kindness sparks online sensation

DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A tourist's snapshot of a New York City police officer giving new boots to a barefoot homeless man in Times Square has created an on-line sensation.

Jennifer Foster, of Arizona, was visiting New York with her boyfriend on Nov. 14, when she came across the shoeless man asking for change in Times Square.

As she was about to approach him, she said the officer — identified as Larry DePrimo — came up to the man with a pair of all-weather boots and thermal socks on the frigid night. She recorded his generosity on her cellphone.

DePrimo, speaking to reporters on Thursday, remembered the night clearly, that even with two pairs of socks on, his feet were freezing.

The homeless man "didn't even have a pair of socks on and I could only imagine how cold that pavement was," the 25-year-old said, clutching a box

containing cufflinks given to him by Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Foster's photo was posted Tuesday night to the NYPD's official Facebook page and became an instant hit. More than 420,000 users "liked" it as of Thursday evening, and more than 140,000 shared it.

Thousands of people commented, including one person who praised him as "An officer AND a Gentleman." The photo shows the officer kneeling beside the man with the boots at his feet. A shoe store is seen in the background.

"I have these size 12 boots for you, they are all-weather. Let's put them on and take care of you," Foster quoted DePrimo as saying to the man. She wrote: "The officer squatted down on the ground and proceeded to put socks and the new boots on this man. The officer expected NOTHING in return and did not know I was watching."

DePrimo said buying the boots "was something I had to do." □

GOP slams White House 'cliff' offer

Continued from front

"There can be no deal without rates on top earners going up," White House press secretary Jay Carney said.

Barely a month remains until Bush-era tax cuts expire and deep across-the-board spending cuts would

\$1.6 trillion in higher taxes over a decade and an immediate infusion of money to aid the jobless and help hard-pressed homeowners. In exchange, the officials said, Obama will support an unspecified amount of spending cuts this year, to be followed by legislation in 2013 producing savings

House proposal is a near mirror image of what officials have said Republicans earlier lay down as their first offer, including a permanent extension of income tax cuts at all levels. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters, "We're still waiting for a serious offer from Republi-



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nev., center, flanked by Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., left, and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., gestures during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, following a meeting with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on the fiscal cliff negotiations. "We're still waiting for a serious offer from Republicans," Reid said.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

take effect Jan. 1. Obama has said he would like to have a deal made before Christmas.

Economists warn that sending the economy over the so-called "fiscal cliff" would trigger a recession.

To avoid the danger, Obama and Congress are hoping to devise a plan that can reduce future deficits by as much as \$4 trillion in a decade, cancel the tax increases and automatic spending cuts and expand the government's ability to borrow beyond the current limit of \$16.4 trillion.

Officials on Thursday said the White House is seeking

of as much as \$400 billion from popular benefit programs over a decade.

Republican aides provided the first description of the White House's offer, although Democratic officials readily confirmed the outlines.

Under the proposal, the White House is seeking passage by year's end of tax increases totaling \$1.6 trillion over a decade, including the rate hikes sought by Obama.

The White House also wants a new stimulus package to aid the economy, with a price tag for the first year of \$50 billion.

In political terms, the White

cans."

The White House also circulated a memo that said closing tax loopholes and limiting tax deductions — a preferred Republican alternative to Obama's call to raise high-end tax rates — would be likely to depress charitable donations and wind up leading to a middle-class tax increase in the near future.

Obama travels to Pennsylvania on Friday to campaign for his tax proposal. Boehner, who will begin a second term as House speaker early next month, has appealed to his party members to remain united. □

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Victor and vanquished: Obama has Romney to lunch

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama and former Republican rival Mitt Romney met for a private lunch at the White House on Thursday, their first meeting since the Nov. 6 election, fulfilling a promise Obama made in his victory speech.

Romney left after just over an hour.

The White House said the lunch focused on America's leadership in the world and the importance of maintaining that leadership position, and the two pledged to stay in touch.

"The president noted that Gov. Romney did a terrific job running the Olympics and that that skills set lends itself to ideas that could make the federal government work better, which is a passion of the president's," White House



Former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney arrives at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, for his luncheon with President Barack Obama.

(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

spokesman Jay Carney said. Obama and Romney's meeting was likely their most extensive private talk to date. They had only

a handful of brief exchanges before the 2012 election, and their campaign interactions were largely confined to the three presiden-

tial debates.

Romney adviser Eric Fehrnstrom called it a "very friendly lunch. They spoke about some of the big challenges facing America, and it gave Governor Romney the opportunity to personally congratulate President Obama for the success of his campaign." For Romney, it was a day of closure after a hard-fought campaign.

Romney and Rep. Paul Ryan, his former running mate, met earlier in the day to talk about economic challenges facing

Washington, a Ryan aide said. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the aide was not authorized to discuss the private discussions.

Romney has virtually disappeared from politics following his election loss. He's spent the past three weeks largely in seclusion at his family's California home. He has made no public appearances, drawing media attention only after being photographed at Disneyland in addition to stops at the movies and the gym with his wife, Ann. □

One winner emerges in record US lotto drawing

BRIAN SKOLOFF
MARIA SUDEKUM
Associated Press

DEARBORN, Missouri (AP) — One winner emerged, and the other remained a mystery, for the record \$588 million Powerball jackpot that had people across the U.S. scrambling to try their luck this week.

Missouri Lottery officials on Thursday verified one of two tickets that matched all six numbers to split the winnings and set a news conference for Friday morning. The other ticket was sold in Arizona.

A nationwide ticket-buying spree preceded Wednesday's drawing, with the big money enticing many people who rarely, if ever, play the lottery to buy a shot at the payout. Winners in both states have 180 days to claim their share of the prize money.

The \$587.5 million payout represents the second-largest jackpot in U.S. history.

Tickets sold at a rate of 130,000 a minute nationwide — about six times the volume from a week ago. That pushed the jackpot even higher, said Chuck Strutt, executive director of the Multi-State Lottery Association. The jackpot rolled over 16 consecutive times without a winner.

In a Mega Millions drawing in March, three ticket buyers shared a \$656 million jackpot. This remains the largest lottery payout of all time. □

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Army GI testifies he thought he'd die in custody

DAVID DISHNEAU

Associated Press

FORT MEADE, Maryland

(AP) — An Army private charged in the biggest security breach in U.S. history testified Thursday that he felt like a doomed, caged animal after he was arrested in Baghdad for allegedly sending classified information to the secret-spilling website WikiLeaks.

Speaking publicly for the first time about his May 2010 arrest and subsequent confinement, Pfc. Bradley Manning testified about his time in a cell in a segregation tent at Camp Arifjan, an Army installation in Kuwait.

"I remember thinking I'm going to die. I'm stuck inside this cage," Manning said in response to questions from defense attorney David Coombs. "I just thought I was going to die



Army Pfc. Bradley Manning is escorted into a courthouse in Fort Meade, Md., Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, for a pretrial hearing.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

in that cage. And that's how I saw it — an animal cage." Manning was later sent to a Marine Corps brig in Quantico, Virginia, in July 2010. His lawyers are seeking dismissal of all charges, contending his pretrial confinement at Quantico was

needlessly harsh.

Manning's testimony came on the third day of a pretrial hearing at Fort Meade, the sprawling Army post between Washington and Baltimore. The compact, 24-year-old intelligence analyst looked youthful in his dark-blue dress uniform, close-cropped hair and rimless eyeglasses. He was animated, often swiveling in the witness chair and gesturing with his hands.

Speaking in emphatic bursts, sometimes stumbling over his words, Manning said that at Quantico, where he was held for nine months in highly restrictive maximum custody, "I started to feel like I was mentally going back to Kuwait mode, in that lonely, dark, black hole place, mentally." Manning said he never sank that low but grew frustrated after five months of

spending up to 23 hours a day in a windowless, 6-by-8-foot cell. "It was pretty draining. Tiring," Manning said. He described it as "boredom. Complete, out-of-my-mind boredom."

Manning is trying to avoid

trial in the WikiLeaks case. He argues he was punished enough when he was locked up alone in a small cell for nearly nine months at Quantico, where he also had to sleep naked for several nights. □

Strauss-Kahn, NYC maid to settle

JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

Former International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn and a hotel maid who accused him of trying to rape her have reached an agreement to settle her lawsuit against him, a person familiar with the case said Thursday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private negotiation. The details of the deal were unknown.

Strauss-Kahn lawyer William Taylor wouldn't comment Thursday. Lawyers for the

housekeeper didn't immediately respond to phone and email messages.

The person said Bronx Supreme Court Judge Douglas McKeon facilitated the agreement, which hasn't been signed.

The deal would end a legal saga that forced Strauss-Kahn's resignation as head of the IMF and ended his French presidential ambitions last year. Prosecutors dropped related criminal charges.

The housekeeper, Nafissatou Diallo, said Strauss-Kahn attacked her when she arrived to clean his upscale Manhattan hotel suite in

May 2011. He said their encounter was consensual and called the lawsuit defamatory.

Strauss-Kahn, 63, initially argued that he had diplomatic immunity from the lawsuit. A judge turned down that claim in May.

Strauss-Kahn said Diallo, who's from Guinea, had sullied his reputation with a "malicious and wanton false accusation." And when prosecutors dropped criminal charges against him, they said they had developed concerns about her credibility. But she insisted she told the truth about their encounter. □

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Florida law to be tested with new teen shooting

LIZETTE ALVAREZ

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MIAMI — In what could become another test of Florida's broad self-defense law, a software developer charged with killing a Jacksonville teenager said he reached for his gun and fired eight rounds only after he was threatened with a shotgun. The suspect, Michael Dunn, 45, of Satellite Beach, was charged Wednesday with second-degree murder and attempted murder. Dunn told his lawyer that the victim, Jordan Davis, 17, who was parked at a convenience store in Jacksonville on Friday night with three other teenagers, pointed a shotgun at him through a partly rolled-down window, threatened to kill him and

began to open the door. The shooting occurred after a dispute over loud music coming from the teenagers' sport utility vehicle. Davis, a junior at a Jack-

sonville high school who had moved from Georgia two years ago to live with his father, died after being shot twice. The Jacksonville Sheriff's Office said officers

did not find a shotgun in the car. Dunn and his fiancée, Rhonda Rouer, fled the convenience store in his Volkswagen Jetta after the teenagers left because he was afraid they would return, his attorney, Robin Lemonidis, said. He did not call the authorities; the police arrested him the following day, finding him because a witness noted his license plate number. The case has drawn parallels to the Trayvon Martin shooting because of the age and race of the victim, the fact that no weapon associated with the victim has been found, and because of Dunn's self-defense claim. Lemonidis is considering using the state's Stand Your Ground law, which allows people who fear for their

lives to retaliate with lethal force, as a defense. But she said the shooting bore no resemblance to the case of George Zimmerman, accused of second-degree murder in the death of Martin. "There is no racial motivation here whatsoever," Lemonidis said. "He would have never, ever, in a million years pulled a gun if his life was not threatened. He saw a shotgun, and four inches of the barrel, and the guy said to him, 'This is going down now' and popped the door open." Ron Davis, Jordan Davis's father, told CNN that his son, who recently got a job at McDonald's, did not own guns and that the teenagers in the car tried to flee when they saw Dunn's gun. □



An attendee reacts as he leaves a memorial services for Jordan Davis, 17, who was shot and killed while parked at a convenience store, in Jacksonville, Fla. The suspect, Michael Dunn, was formally charged on Wednesday with second-degree murder and attempted murder.

(Kelly Jordan/The New York Times)

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Strike idles LA-Long Beach port complex

ROBERT JABLON

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cargo ships were stacking up Thursday in Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors as a strike shut down most of the terminals at the nation's busiest port complex. About 70 clerical workers from the local chapter of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union were picketing seven of eight Los Angeles terminals and at least three of six Long Beach terminals, port officials said.

Dockworkers from the same union were refusing to cross the picket lines even though an arbitrator ruled the walkout invalid on Tuesday.

By Thursday morning, at least 18 ships docked and inside the adjacent harbors were not being serviced, port spokesmen said.

"Basically, we're not moving cargo in and out here,"



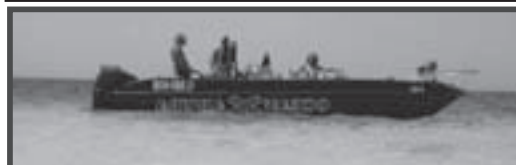
Striking protestors are shown at the Port of Los Angeles. Striking workers shut down the largest terminal at the Port of Los Angeles, the nation's busiest port complex.


(AP Photo/Nick Ut)


Los Angeles port spokesman Phillip Sanfield said. The clerical workers have been locked in a contract dispute with 14 shippers for 2 1/2 years. Talks broke off Monday and the workers struck a single terminal but expanded the picket lines Wednesday afternoon. No new contract talks were scheduled. Combined, Los Angeles

and Long Beach comprise America's busiest port complex, handling 40 percent of the nation's import trade.

There was no immediate word on how much the strike is costing the ports. November generally is a slower time for the ports because most holiday goods already have been shipped ashore. □







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Rail plan stirs distrust among black Angelenos

IAN LOVETT

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LOS ANGELES – The story of major transit projects in the 20th century here was the story of black neighborhoods carved into pieces. One freeway after another forced families from their homes in South Los Angeles, the core of the region's black community. Walls of concrete were erected through their neighborhoods, which they said cut them off from wealthier parts of the city. The Crenshaw rail line was

of limited money. And the train will run at street level through part of the area, which business owners fear will cut them off from their customers during years of construction. The prospect that the train will bypass the neighborhood has stoked distrust among South Los Angeles residents who feel that they are being short-changed, as power brokers try to save money for other projects in wealthier parts of the city. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the city's first Latino

else, Villaraigosa agrees that Leimert Park, home to cultural festivals, jazz clubs and a host of black-owned businesses, deserves its own stop. Contractors will submit their proposals for the project within a few weeks, and the mayor said he was "fairly confident" that a Leimert Park stop could be done within the \$1.8 billion budget. But Villaraigosa also emphasized the benefits that the rail network – including a recently constructed light-rail line that carries passengers through

the way downtown." Lisa Schweitzer, a professor at the Sol Price School of Public Policy at the University of Southern California who studies social justice and transport, said that the congested corridor on the West

Side was the best place in Los Angeles for a subway line, while Crenshaw Boulevard was better suited for an above-ground light-rail line, which is less expensive to build but carries fewer people. □



Crenshaw Boulevard, where a light-rail line is scheduled to be built, in the Leimert Park neighborhood of Los Angeles. The Leimert Park neighborhood, the heart of black culture in Los Angeles, may be left without a stop on the new rail line. (J. Emilio Flores/The New York Times)

supposed to be different. The line, a crucial link in a planned rail network that will span Los Angeles County, promised to right that historical wrong by connecting South Los Angeles to the city's business hubs: downtown, the airport and Hollywood. Instead, the Crenshaw line threatens to become yet another insult to South Los Angeles and a burden for businesses, some residents and community activists have said. The Leimert Park neighborhood, the heart of black culture here, may be left without a stop on the rail line, a victim

mayor, has also positioned himself as a successor to Bradley's transit legacy: The rail lines that will span Los Angeles County in the coming decades will be a major piece of his own legacy, after he leaves office next year because of term limits. Yet Villaraigosa and his allies blocked Ridley-Thomas' plan. Instead, a Leimert Park stop will be included only if contractors can squeeze it within the existing budget, and the Crenshaw line will run at street level for part of its trip through the area. Like just about everyone

the northern parts of South Los Angeles – would offer the area even if a Leimert Park stop was not built. He also noted his efforts to expand the Crenshaw line, which was originally designed as a bus line with a fraction of the money it now has. "In this community, we don't have money," said Theodore Thomas, the president of the Community Council in the Parker Mesa neighborhood, where the Crenshaw line will run at street level. "The majority of people think we're a pass-through on

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Nationwide internet service blackout crippling Syria

BASSEM MROUE
ZEINA KARAM
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Internet service went down Thursday across Syria and international flights were canceled at the Damascus airport when a road near the facility was closed by heavy fighting in the country's civil war. Activists said President Bashar Assad's regime pulled the plug on the Internet, perhaps in preparation for a major offensive. Cellphone service also went out in Damascus and parts of central Syria, they said. The government blamed rebel fighters for the outages.

With pressure building against the regime on several fronts and government forces on their heels in the battle for the northern commercial hub of Aleppo, rebels have recently begun pushing back into Damascus after largely being driven out of the capital following a July offensive. One Damascus resident reported seeing rebel forces near a suburb of the city previously deemed to be safe from fighting.

The Internet outage, confirmed by two U.S.-based companies that monitor online connectivity, is unprecedented in Syria's 20-month-old uprising against Assad, which activists say has killed more than 40,000 people. Regime forces suffered a string of tactical defeats in

recent weeks, losing air bases and other strategic facilities. The government may be trying to blunt additional rebel offensives by hampering communications.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria

Nuland condemned what she called the regime's "assault" on Syrians' ability to communicate with each other and express themselves. She said the move spoke to a desperate attempt by Assad to cling to power.

Syrian authorities often cut phone and Internet service in select areas to disrupt rebel communications when regime forces are conducting major operations.

The government sent mixed signals about the

Internet outage but denied it was nationwide.

The pro-regime TV station Al-Ikhbariya quoted Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi as saying that "terrorists" have targeted Internet cables, interrupting service in several cities.

Separately, state-run TV said the outage was due to a technical failure that affected some provinces, adding that technicians were trying to fix it.

Activists in Syria, reached by satellite telephones unaffected by the outage, confirmed the communications problems.

A young Syrian businessman who lives in an upscale neighborhood of Damascus, which some refer to as part of "the green zone" because it has remained relatively safe, sent a text message to an Associated Press reporter Thursday that said the Internet had been cut in his area and that mobile phone service was cutting out. □



Syrian citizens walk in a destroyed street that was attacked on Wednesday by Syrian forces warplanes, at Abu al-Hol street in Homs province, Syria, Thursday Nov. 29, 2012. Two US-based Internet-monitoring companies say Syria has shut off the Internet nationwide.

(AP Photo)

UN court frees former Kosovo leader

MARLISE SIMONS
© 2012 New York Times

PARIS — A U.N. war crimes tribunal Thursday acquitted the former prime minister of Kosovo, Ramush Haradinaj, for the second time of torturing and killing Serb civilians while he

was a commander of the NATO-backed Kosovo Liberation Army during its fight for independence in 1999.

Two of his comrades, Idriz Balaj and Lahi Brahimaj, were also acquitted, although Brahimaj has al-

ready served a six-year sentence for torture handed down in an earlier trial. The judges ordered the three men released immediately. Supporters cheered in the courtroom's public gallery in The Hague.

The men were expected to return later in the day to Kosovo.

In Serbia, which is involved in crucial talks with Kosovo, a former Serbian province before the war, the decision was expected to provoke a wave of angry reactions.

President Tomislav Nikolic of Serbia said in a statement that the ruling showed that the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugosla-

via was "apparently contrary to international law" and had been "formed to try the Serbian people" for the wars of the 1990s. He said that now "nobody will be convicted for the horrible crimes against Kosovo Serbs."

But other officials, including the Serbian prime minister, Ivica Dacic, said that talks with Kosovo would continue because they were in Serbia's "best interest."

Earlier this month, the tribunal enraged the Belgrade government and many Serbs when an appeals chamber threw out the convictions of two Croatian generals, Ante Gotovina and Mladen Markac. □

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Egypt's draft constitution

The Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Islamist-dominated panel is voting on Egypt's draft constitution, the country's first charter after the uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak.

Here are some of the disputed articles:

— As in past constitutions, the new draft says that the "principles of Islamic law" will be the basis of law. But a new article states that Egypt's most respected Islamic institution, Al-Azhar, must be consulted on any matters related to Shariah, or Islamic law, a measure critics fear will lead to oversight of legislation by clerics.

— Another article underlines that the state will protect "the true nature of the Egyptian family ... and promote its morals and values," phrasing that is vague and suggests state control over the contents of such arts forms as books and films.

— The draft contains no article specifically establishing equality between men and women because of disputes over the phrasing. However, it maintains that a woman must balance her duties toward family and outside work, suggesting that she can be held accountable if her public role conflicts with her family duties. No such article is mentioned for men.

— Another article bans insults to or defamation of the prophet and messengers, but is vague about what constitutes an insult, raising concerns of restrictions to freedom of expression.

— One article maintains that the state supports the arts, science and literature, and works to implement them in a way that serves society. That has raised concerns that some arts deemed not in the service of society may be restricted or censored.

Assembly rushes to vote on Egypt's constitution

DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
© 2012 New York Times

CAIRO — Racing against a looming court ruling and an escalating political crisis, the leaders of Egypt's constitutional assembly began voting Thursday on a permanent charter for the country that independent analysts called hastily drafted and ill-defined. Islamists dominated the assembly, and almost all of the political opposition had walked out.

The assembly's chairman, Judge Hossam El-Gheriani, began with a vote to replace 11 members who boycotted the session in protest over the Islamist-dominated chamber's push to end debate. One delegate pleaded for more time to try to reach a greater consensus.

"We shouldn't rush the draft of the constitution because we're afraid of this or that, or because there's a 'million man' march today or tomorrow," the delegate, Mohamed Mohyi El Deen, said, referring to fears of the court decision and

street protests expected to reach a new peak Friday. Some secular political groups "want to topple the constituent assembly" in order to embarrass its Islamist leaders, he acknowl-



Members of the constitutional assembly attend a session to vote on a final draft of a new Egyptian constitution in Cairo, Egypt, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012.

(AP Photo/Mohammed Abu Zaid)

edged, while the Islamists were eager to complete the document "to save the president," Mohammed Morsi, an ally who would suffer politically if the assembly was dissolved. The rush to complete the charter took place against the backdrop of the po-

litical crisis set off last week when Morsi sought to declare his own decree above judicial scrutiny until the constitution was complete. He said he needed the power to protect the

His attempt to claim the new powers and the resulting protests are both prompted by a pending court ruling that could short-circuit the writing of the constitution by breaking up the assembly. The courts have already dissolved an earlier assembly, as well as the newly elected Parliament, and the Supreme Constitutional Court, the nation's highest court, is set to rule Sunday on the legitimacy of the assembly.

In perhaps the most important change, the proposed constitution, which some critics say merely tinkers with an existing Egyptian constitution, fulfills at least one central demand of the revolution, by trying to end Egypt's imperial presidency and shifting more power to Parliament.

The assembly also appeared to reject all demands of the ultraconservative Salafis to impose puritanical moral codes or empower religious scholars to strike down statutes.

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daily: 6:45 9:15 **SP** **PG-13**

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daily: 6:00 8:45 **NEW**

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daily: 7:30 **NEW**

matinee: **R**

late show: 11:00

RISE OF THE GUARDIANS

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LIFE OF PI

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UK judge issues damning press verdict

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's unruly newspapers should be regulated by an independent body dominated by non-journalists with the power to levy steep fines, a judge said Thursday in a report that pleased victims of tabloid intrusion but left editors worrying about creeping state control of the country's fiercely independent press.

Prime Minister David Cameron echoed concerns about government interference, expressing misgivings about a key recommendation of the report — that the new regulator be enshrined in law. He called on the much criticized press to show it could control itself by implementing the judge's proposals quickly — and without political involvement.

"I'm proud of the fact that we've managed to survive hundreds of years without state regulation," he said. Lord Justice Brian Leveson issued his 2,000-page report at the end of a me-



A security guard tries to move on a protestor and his dog wearing a banner outside the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre where Lord Justice Brian Leveson released his report after a yearlong inquiry into the culture and practices of the British press and his recommendations for future regulation to prevent phone hacking, data theft, bribery and other abuses, London, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012. (AP Photo/Kirsty Wigglesworth)

dia ethics inquiry triggered by a scandal over tabloid phone hacking that expanded to engulf senior figures in politics, the police

and Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

His key recommendation was to create a new print media regulator, which he said should be established in law to prevent more people being hurt by "outrageous" press behavior that had "wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people whose rights and liberties have been disdained."

Cameron, under intense pressure from both sides of an issue that has divided his own Conservative Party, welcomed Leveson's proposal for a new regulator and said "the status quo is not an option."

But he said that asking legislators to enshrine it in law meant "crossing the Rubicon of writing elements of press regulation into the law of the land."

"I believe that we should be wary of any legislation that has the potential to infringe free speech and a free press," Cameron told lawmakers in the House of Commons. "In this House which has been a bulwark

of democracy for centuries, we should think very, very carefully before crossing this line."

Leveson insisted that politicians and the government should play no role in regulating the press, which should be done by a new body with much stronger powers than the current Press Complaints Commission.

But the judge said it was "essential that there should be legislation to underpin the independent self-regulatory system."

He said the new body should be composed of members of the public including former journalists and academics — but no more than one serving editor, and no politicians. It should have the power to rule on complaints, demand prominent corrections in newspapers and to levy fines of up to 1 million pounds (\$1.6 million), though it would have no power to prevent material being published.

Membership would be voluntary, but newspapers

would be encouraged to join in part to stave off expensive lawsuits — the regulator would handle complaints that currently end up in court.

The proposal is similar to the system operating in Ireland, where a press council and ombudsman were set up in 2008 to make the print media more publicly accountable. Critics of the tabloid press generally backed Leveson's findings.

"I welcome Lord Leveson's report and hope it will mark the start of a new era for our press in which it treats those in the news responsibly, with care and consideration," said Kate McCann, who was the subject of intense press interest after her 3-year-old daughter Madeleine disappeared during a holiday in Portugal in 2007. Brian Cathcart of the group Hacked Off, which campaigns for victims of press intrusion, said Leveson had produced "a workable, proportionate and reasonable solution to the problems of press abuse." □

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North Korea preps launch that would irk China

MATTHEW PENNINGTON

Associated Press

PYONGYANG (AP) — Satellite photos indicate North Korea has moved two sections of a long-range rocket in preparation for a launch that would alarm both its adversaries and lone ally China.

But North Korea has yet to give international notification of its plans, leaving some uncertainty whether and when it will proceed with a launch that would be sure to draw international condemnation.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said Thursday the recent activity at the Sohae site on North Korea's northwest coast suggests it could be ready to launch a three-stage rocket by the end of the first week in December.

A commercial satellite photo taken Monday shows



This satellite image shows the Sohae Satellite Launch Station in Cholsan County, North Pyongan Province, North Korea. According to analysis by SAIS, North Korea has moved two sections of a long-range rocket at the site in preparation for a launch that would alarm both its adversaries and lone ally China. SAIS says recent activity at the Sohae site suggests it could be ready to blast-off a three-stage rocket by the end of the first week in December.

(AP Photo/DigitalGlobe via SAIS)

two long trailers, likely used to carry the first two stages of a rocket, according to an analysis written for 38 North, the institute's web-

site. The trailers are parked near the main missile assembly building, where it says rocket stages would be checked before mov-

ing to the launch pad for takeoff about a half-mile (800 meters) away.

In April, North Korea fired a rocket from the same site in a failed attempt to launch a satellite into space, drawing U.N. censure as that technology can be easily converted into use for missiles.

The launch dashed prospects for a resumption of international aid-for-disarmament talks.

North Korea has yet to announce it is planning a launch. South Korean officials, however, confirmed Thursday there are signs of preparations at the rocket site.

A launch in the next few weeks would be seen in Seoul as timed for South Korea's Dec. 19 presidential election.

Victor Cha, a former White House director of Asia policy, said Pyongyang has a

track record of reacting to elections in both the U.S. and South Korea in provocative ways, most recently when President Barack Obama took office in 2009. North conducted a rocket and nuclear test within four months.

Another motivating factor for the North could be that South Korea recently won U.S. approval to expand its ballistic-missile range, and this week, was readying its own satellite launch. However, it scrapped those launch plans Thursday, citing technical problems.

North Korea conducted nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, and Washington says Pyongyang uses long-range rocket launches to develop missiles that could target the United States, although it is not yet believed to have miniaturized a nuclear device to mount on a missile. □

Arafat's widow calls death a mystery

STEPHEN CALLEJA

Associated Press

VALLETTA, Malta (AP) — Yasser Arafat's widow sees a spiritual significance in the timing of her late husband's exhumation, which came just two days before a U.N. vote on whether to recognize a Palestinian state.

"It was as if his soul was resurrecting" before the General Assembly vote, Suha Arafat told The Associated Press on Thursday at her home in Malta, sitting in front of a large portrait of Arafat, who for decades

was the symbol of Palestinians' struggle for an independent state.

"It's as if he was saying, 'I am still alive and with you,'" she said. Mrs. Arafat called the former Palestinian leader's death at the age of 75 in November 2004, a month after suddenly falling ill, "the most important mystery of the Middle East." Arafat's remains were exhumed in the West Bank on Tuesday in a renewed investigation into his death. Palestinian officials claim he was poisoned by Israel, which has denied the al-

legations. His remains were immediately reburied after a Palestinian forensics examiner took around 20 samples and handed them to Swiss, French and Russian experts. "It was a hard day for me and my daughter, but it was a decision that had to be made," Mrs. Arafat said. Mrs. Arafat pursued a formal inquiry after Swiss scientists found high-levels of polonium-210, a lethal radioactive substance, on personal affects she shared with Arab satellite TV station Al Jazeera as part of their investigation. □

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London:

Russian whistleblower's death unexplained

NATALIYA VASILYEVA

PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British officials are investigating the unexplained death of a Russian businessman, a key witness against Russian of-

sults, Surrey Police spokeswoman Nicola Burrell said. The case evokes memories of the 2006 death of former Russian spy-turned-Kremlin critic Alexander Litvinenko, who was poisoned with polonium-210, a rare radio-



Nataliya Magnitskaya holds a portrait of her son Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer who died in jail, as she speaks with The Associated Press in Moscow, Russia.

(AP Photo / A. Zemlianichenko)

officials who allegedly stole \$230 million from a London hedge fund in a money laundering scheme. Alexander Perepilichny's body was discovered Nov. 10 outside his rented house south of London. Police said a second post-mortem on the 44-year-old former milk factory owner would begin Friday after a previous one had proven inconclusive. It could still take months to get the new toxicology re-

active isotope that was secretly slipped into his tea at a London hotel. The case took relations between Moscow and London to a post-Cold War low, a relationship that has yet to fully recover.

The latest Russian death is linked to the same money laundering scheme that was being investigated by Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer hired by the London-based hedge fund

Hermitage Capital. Magnitsky died in a Moscow jail in 2009 amid torture claims, and his death has spurred efforts in Europe and the U.S. to punish Russian officials who may have been complicit in human rights abuses. "All of us are at risk in this campaign," Hermitage Capital director William Browder told The Associated Press on Thursday. Perepilichny had approached Hermitage officials in 2010 and provided extensive documents on the alleged scheme, Browder said. Bank statements, company registry documents and ownership records of offshore companies were then passed onto Swiss investigators and Hermitage Capital applied to file a criminal complaint in Switzerland. Swiss Federal Prosecutors' Office spokeswoman Jeannette Balmer said Thursday that the Hermitage Capital investigation was ongoing but that some bank accounts had already been frozen. Hermitage claimed the husband of a former Moscow tax official used bank accounts at Credit Suisse to make million-dollar property purchases after she approved a fraudulent \$230 million tax return for three of Hermitage's subsidiaries. □

AROUND THE WORLD

Renter kills baby of Ecuador family

MADRID (AP) — Police say a Spanish man renting a room in an apartment occupied by Ecuadorean immigrants attacked the family for unknown reasons and killed a 6-month-old baby. Spain's National Police say in a statement that the baby was killed by a blow to the head and that his 3-year-old brother was seriously injured. The children's mother and her great-grandmother sustained non-life threatening injuries. Authorities said in the statement Thursday that they were investigating the motive for the attack. The suspect identified only by his initials had been living in the apartment in a Madrid suburb for several months. □

FBI told Canada about spy in midst

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP) — Search warrants used in the case of a Canadian Navy intelligence officer who pleaded guilty to espionage say Canadian police began investigating the man after the FBI alerted them of a possible security breach. Redacted versions of warrants were released Thursday. The warrants were used to obtain evidence against Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle, who pleaded guilty last month to passing classified information to Russia. One document says police opened an investigation into Delisle's activities after it received a letter from FBI assistant director Frank Figliuzzi alerting them of a possible security breach involving a Canadian military officer. It doesn't address how the FBI knew that. □

Russian kids find lion cub at school

MOSCOW (AP) — Most primary school classes get a goldfish to keep, a hamster or a turtle if they're lucky — but children from one village in southern Russia got to play with a lion cub. Children in the Rostov region found the 5-month old cub on the steppe Wednesday and brought it to their teacher, who kept it in the school gym, police said Thursday. While waiting for police, children petted and played with the cub, named Barsik. One boy even tried to ride it like a horse while it mewled and swiped at the air. The cub had escaped from a car on the way to a zoo in Dagestan in the North Caucasus. It has now been removed from the school and placed in a local zoo. □

Algerians cry foul in local elections

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — Algerian opposition parties cried foul over the North African country's municipal elections Thursday, citing the government's practice of mobilizing security forces to vote for the ruling parties. Two hours after polls closed, Interior Minister Dahou Ould Kablia announced the turnout was around 43 percent, with participation light in the capital, but heavier in the more rural provinces. Algerians voted for 1,541 district councils and 48 provincial councils for a new 5-year term. Although dozens of political parties are running, the councils have limited power in the face of officials appointed by the central government. □

Widower claims he will sue Ireland

DUBLIN (AP) — The widower of an Indian woman who died in an Irish hospital after being refused an abortion plans to sue Ireland's government in the European Court of Human Rights. Praveen Halappanavar confirmed his decision Thursday through his lawyer, Gerard O'Donnell. His wife Savita died Oct. 28 in a hospital in Galway, western Ireland, one week after being admitted for severe pain amid a miscarriage. Doctors refused to perform an abortion for three days while the 17-week-old fetus still had a heartbeat. Savita fell gravely ill after the dead fetus was removed and then suffered gradual organ failure. A coroner ruled she died from blood poisoning. □

Activists say China at center of illegal global timber trade

BEIJING (AP) — Voracious demand for wood to feed factories for exports and satisfy wealthier consumers at home has turned China into a magnet for the illegal timber trade, causing other countries to strip their forests as Beijing does little to discourage the practices, an environmental group said in a report released Thursday. Countries as far away as Mozambique in Africa and the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific as well as Myanmar, Laos and other Chinese neighbors are felling rare hardwoods and other trees at unsustainable rates to fulfill Chi-

nese demand, said the report from the Environmental Investigation Agency, a London-based activist group. In some countries, the EIA found that Chinese buyers were undermining international agreements to stop illegal logging and the exports of rare species by making payoffs and using smuggling networks.

"These investigations reveal how Chinese traders thrive on crime, corruption, the purchase of political patronage and poor forest governance in the producer countries from which they source," said the report. It later said

"China's government has done virtually nothing to curb illegal imports, while putting in place policies to ensure supply from some of the worst illegal logging hotspots in the world."

Chinese government agencies declined initial comment, saying they had not seen the report and asking for questions be submitted in writing. In the past, the government has responded to criticisms that China is preying on developing nations' raw materials by saying the trade is mutually beneficial, generating income and jobs for the suppliers. □



Daniel and Carol Coleman honored at Caribbean Palm Village!

NOORD – Interim General manager Astrid Muller and the Treasurer of the Board Randy Croes thanked Daniel and Carol Coleman for their friendship and support over the past 25 years. The Colemans have been coming to Aruba since 1987 when they bought their time share unit at the still under construction vacation village. We have been celebrating all year, explains Astrid Muller, commemorating our quarter-of-a-century milestone, with our guests! The charming vacation village inspired by South Beach and the art deco district is Aruba's best-kept-secret vacation destination. Tucked into the Noord neighborhood, the village is a self-contained oasis of tranquility and charm. At this week's



manager's cocktail party, the Colemans were presented with a commemorative plaque, which they gratefully accepted stating that they have always had an excellent time on the island; they raised their kids here and made good use of the timeshare exchange opportunities as well. Don Geerman and Farley Croes of the activities department entertained guests with music, games and fun contests lending the gathering a cozy, friendly and welcoming ambiance. □



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German travel agents visit Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa welcomed 21 travel agencies from all over Germany recently, accompanied by ATA's representative in Germany, Rita Morozow. The group started with a yoga class at the beach pavilion hosted by our yoga instructor, Rachel Brathen.

After yoga, they enjoyed the healthy breakfast buffet at our newly opened Ike's Bistro, followed by an informative site inspection of the hotel and Spa Del Sol on the beach.

The group arrived on the island on November 20th, and they enjoyed quite an extensive program of site inspections and various activities organized by the Aruba Tourism Authority and partner hoteliers.

Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is always honored to



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Carolina
Machado

She is from Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. She is living in Caracas Venezuela right now. She and her family are staying at Holiday Inn Sunspree Beach Resort.

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InselAir Aruba recognized as the newest Airline in Aruba

Oranjestad - by placing his signature on the Air Operating Certificate, Minister Otmar Oduber officially recognized InselAir Aruba as the newest airline of Aruba.

For over 18 months InselAir Aruba worked on the creation of a new airline in Aruba which aims to promote tourism in Aruba by operating new routes.

In a meeting between Minister Oduber and InselAir in 2011 it was discussed what would be the best way to promote tourism to Aruba. In this meeting it was decided that the Aruban airlines each would strive to operate to different destinations, so that maximum output is achieved from those destinations for Aruba.

Following this discussion, In-



Roger Yarzagaray
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"Hats Off to the Man of The Week!"

MAN OF THE WEEK



selAir included several destinations, not yet covered by an Aruban airline before. Thus InselAir focuses on cities like Manaus, Brasilia, Guayaquil, Medellin, Valencia, ensuring during its growth to reach at least a total of 15 international destinations. It is also important that InselAir serves as a feeder airline in order to serve its European, Caribbean and North American code share and Interline partners via Aruba that will have a function as an international hub.

Minister Oduber expressed confidence in the new carrier and indicated that with the start of InselAir Aruba, a new dimension to tourism in Aruba has been added. Especially because of the many collaborations of InselAir with other airlines, the growth of the Aruban tour-

ism by transporting tourists from new destinations to Aruba will be a fact. This will also lead to much more awareness of Aruba by potential visitors in the region and beyond.

InselAir would like to express its gratitude to the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Mike Eman, the Minister of Tourism Mr. Otmar Oduber, the Senior Advisor of Minister Oduber, Mr Simon Arends, the Director Mr. Joseph Maduro, Mr. Reed and all representatives of the Civil Aviation Authority of Aruba for the trust they have placed in InselAir.

The CEO of InselAir Aruba, Mr Frederick Nuboer and his staff, have promised to do their utmost to implement the goals that have been set together with the Aruban authorities in the best interest of Aruba. □



SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



In this Nov. 4, 2012 file photo, Los Angeles Galaxy midfielder David Beckham of England looks up at the crowd while playing against San Jose Earthquakes during the first half of their MLS playoff soccer match in Carson, Calif.
Associated Press

Beckham exploring 'exciting options' after Galaxy

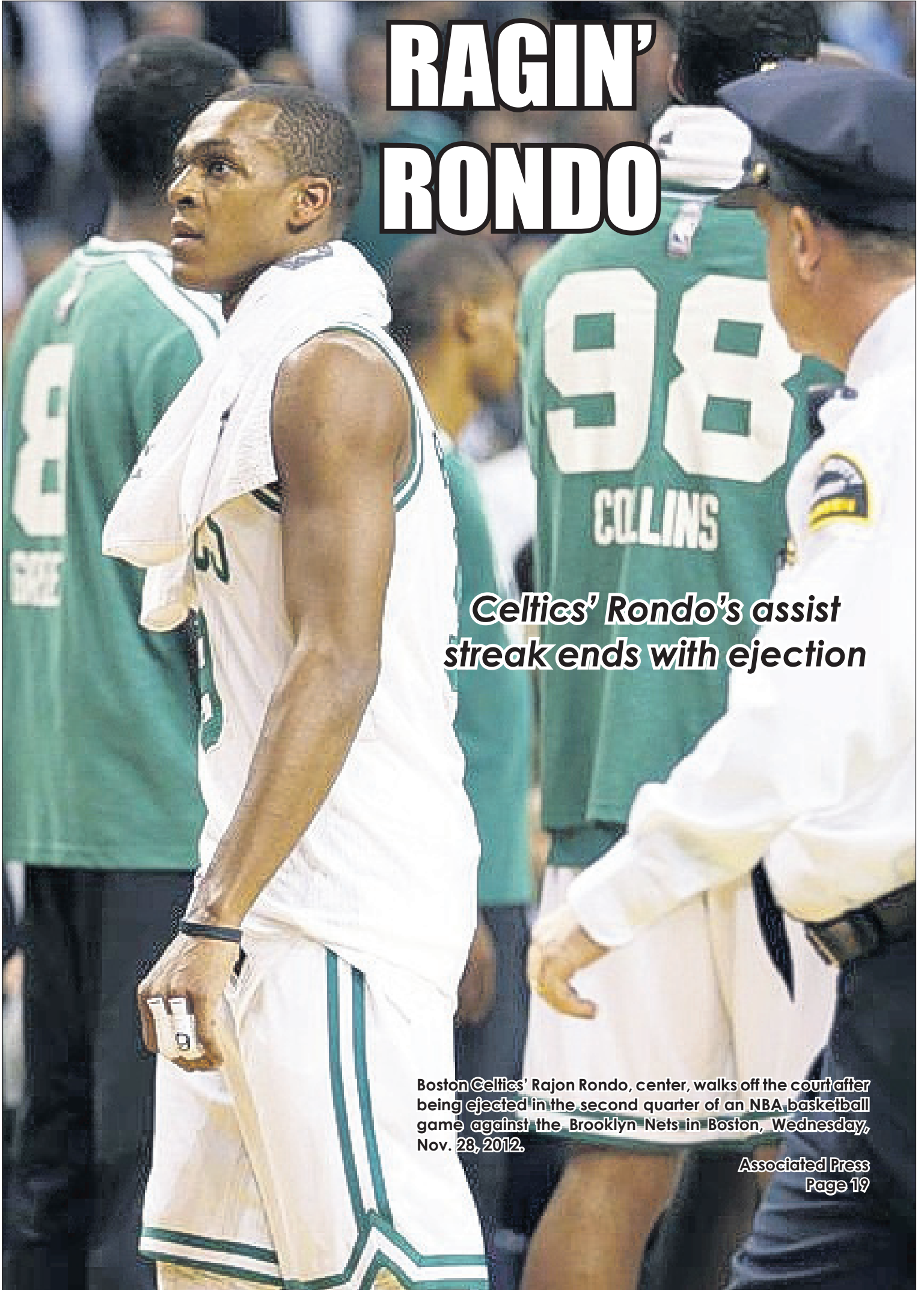
LONDON (AP) — David Beckham says he is mulling over "some quite exciting options" as he seeks the final challenge of his career. However, the ex-England captain says a return to his home country is unlikely because "I can't see myself playing for any other Premier League club" than former team Manchester United. Beckham, speaking in Los Angeles, tells British broadcaster Sky Sports: "I'm lucky — at the age of 37, I've been offered some quite exciting options and there are a few options on the table." He didn't specify which clubs had approached him. Beckham, who is leaving the Los Angeles Galaxy after Saturday's MLS Cup final, has been linked with possible moves to Australia's A-League or Paris Saint-Germain. Beckham says "retirement hasn't come into my head yet." □

RAGIN' RONDO

Celtics' Rondo's assist streak ends with ejection

Boston Celtics' Rajon Rondo, center, walks off the court after being ejected in the second quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets in Boston, Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012.

Associated Press
Page 19





This Aug. 4, 2012 file photo shows Serena Williams posed with her 2012 Summer Olympics gold medal during the podium ceremony of the women's singles final match at the All England Lawn Tennis Club at Wimbledon, in London.

Associated Press

Serena Williams named WTA's Player of the Year

LONDON (AP) — Serena Williams has been named the WTA's Player of the Year after winning major titles at Wimbledon and the U.S. Open and claiming gold at the London Olympics.

Williams, who has won 15 Grand Slam singles titles and four Olympic gold medals, was 48-2 over the final seven months of the season.

It is the fourth time Williams has won the award, which is voted on by international tennis media. She also was named Player of the Year in 2002, 2008 and 2009.

Only Steffi Graf (eight times) and Martina Navratilova (seven times) have won the award more than Williams. United States midfielder Megan Rapinoe, right, leaps atop teammates after their first goal during the first half of their exhibition soccer match against Ireland in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012. Ireland midfielder Niamh Fahy, left, walks away. □

Morgan has hat trick, U.S. beats Ireland 5-0

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Alex Morgan scored three first-half goals as the Olympic gold medal-winning U.S. women's team beat Ireland 5-0 in an international friendly Wednesday.

Sydney Leroux added two goals to help the top-ranked United States to the win.

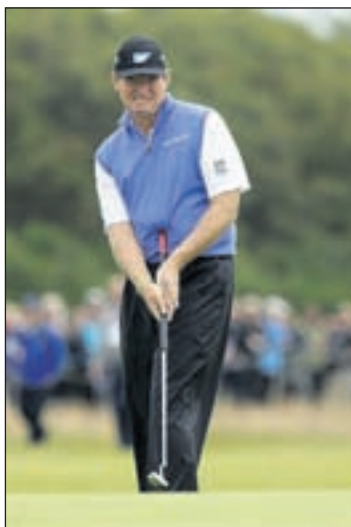
Morgan struck first in the 24th minute for her 25th goal this year, making her the third U.S. player to reach the mark in a season — Abby Wambach had 31 in 2004 and Michelle Akers had 39 in 1991. Leroux has a reserve-record 12 goals this season.

Hope Solo started in goal for the U.S. while her personal life was again grabbing headlines. Earlier Wednesday her husband, NFL player Jeremy Stevens, was taken into custody in Florida for an alleged parole violation. □



In this Oct. 7, 2012, file photo, Bernhard Langer reacts to missing an eagle putt on the 17th green during the Champions Tour golf tournament at Prestonwood Country Club in Cary, N.C. Associated Press

Haas, Langer defend long putter use



This July 19, 2012 file photo shows Ernie Els of South Africa reacting to a putt on the 11th green at Royal Lytham & St Annes golf club during the first round of the British Open Golf Championship in Lytham St Annes, England.

Associated Press

GERALD IMRAY
AP Sports Writer
SUN CITY, South Africa (AP)

— Bernhard Langer and Bill Haas provide a cross-section in the debate over long-handle putters. They both still think there's no problem with them. Langer, a two-time U.S. Masters champion, has used his broom-handle putter for 15 years. Haas tried a long-handle belly putter in 2011 and said he had "some success" with it, but then reverted to a regular club this year.

With golf's governing bod-

ies proposing a new rule to restrict the way the broom and belly putters are used, both players defended the long-handled clubs Thursday at the Nedbank Challenge in South Africa.

The Royal & Ancient Golf Club and the U.S. Golf Association proposed the rule — to come into effect in 2016 — that players could not anchor the putters against their body during the stroke, outlawing the style of three of the past five major winners: 2011 U.S. PGA Championship winner Keegan Bradley, U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson and British Open holder Ernie Els.

Haas said the anchored style didn't make putting easier and there was no need to change anything. "I thought I putted worse with it (the belly putter) for a while," the American said. "I think it's just a way to putt. I've heard Webb Simpson talk about it and he says stats show the best putters aren't belly putters users."

Langer launched an even stronger defense of the longer putter style, the veteran German saying the authorities' proposal to change the regulations was not "the end of it," hinting at a legal response from users.

"It has been out for that

long," said Langer, who thinks the long-handle putters have been around for about 35 years.

"If there is anything illegal about it, why did they not stop it right away? If it is that easy with a long putter, a belly putter, why aren't 90 percent of the pros and 100 percent of the amateurs using it?"

Carl Pettersson of Sweden, one of the strongest defenders of the long-handle clubs alongside South Africa's Tim Clark, declined to talk to reporters about the issue after his opening round at the Nedbank Challenge on Thursday.

"I do not think it is the end of it," he said. "There are pros that are on tour that grew up with that putter. They have invested 15-20 years in practicing, maybe 30 years practicing with a long putter or belly putter, and now they have to switch and they make a living doing that."

Research shows a small but gradual increase in the number of players using the long handles, leaving golf's governing bodies worried that players will turn to long putters as an advantage instead of a last resort. That raised fears from authorities about the purity of the sport. □



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NBA Capsules

After Rondo ejected, Nets beat Celtics 95-83

BOSTON (AP) — Joe Johnson scored 18 points, Andray Blatche had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Boston Celtics 95-83 on Wednesday after Rajon Rondo was ejected following a fight.

The Celtics point guard was tossed after he shoved Kris Humphries to retaliate for the Nets forward's hard foul against Kevin Garnett. Humphries and Brooklyn forward Gerald Wallace were also ejected for their roles in the second-quarter skirmish.

Garnett had 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Paul Pierce added 14 points for Boston. Rondo had three assists before he was kicked out, ending his streak at 37 games with double-digits. That is tied for second-longest in NBA history.

The Nets led by 21 in the second half and never less than nine in the fourth quarter.

WIZARDS 84, TRAIL BLAZERS 82

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington earned its first victory after starting the season with 12 straight losses, getting 19 points from Jordan Crawford to beat Portland.

Washington survived a scoreless 6:47 in the fourth when Crawford hit on a 3-pointer with 2:06 to play, and the Wizards finally took the 84-82 lead on Emeka Okafor's two free throws with 39.1 seconds remaining.

Damian Lillard was called for traveling with 28 seconds left. After Nene was called for an offensive foul, J.J. Hickson missed a jumper with 2.8 seconds to play. The Wizards lost the ball with 0.2 seconds to go, but



Boston Celtics Kevin Garnett, rear center, Rajon Rondo, rear right, and Jason Terry (4) clash with Brooklyn Nets Kris Humphries, left, during an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012, in Boston. The Nets won 95-83.

Associated Press

held on to end the skid.

Nine teams started the season 0-13, and the Wizards were tired of the ridicule they'd been subjected to — locally and nationally — as they crept toward the Nets' NBA record-worst start of 0-18.

THUNDER 120, ROCKETS 98

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant matched his season high with 37 points, and Oklahoma City beat Houston in James Harden's first game back at Chesapeake Energy Arena since being traded by the Thunder before the season. Harden scored 17 points, but was limited to 3-for-16 shooting. He had six shots blocked by the Thunder. Patrick Patterson scored 27 points and Omer Asik had 17 points and 12 rebounds to lead the way for the Rockets, who began the

day by attending the funeral of coach Kevin McHale's daughter in Minnesota.

Harden missed his first nine shots, and by the time he made one, the Rockets were down by double digits in the second half. They never got closer than 10 after that.

BULLS 101, MAVERICKS 78

CHICAGO (AP) — Luol Deng had 22 points and six rebounds to lead Chicago over Dallas.

Five players scored at least 11 points to help the Bulls (7-7) beat the Mavericks for the fourth straight time.

Nate Robinson added 14 points and six assists for Chicago, and fellow reserve Jimmy Butler scored a career-high 13, including 9-of-10 shooting from the free throw line.

Joakim Noah chipped in 13 points, 10 rebounds, five

assists and three blocks as Chicago avoided its first three-game losing streak at the United Center since dropping five straight in March 2010.

Shawn Marion scored 18 points for Dallas, which shot just 35 percent to lose for the eighth time in 11 games. The Mavericks (7-9), who had won 21 of 27 against Chicago, dropped to 2-6 on the road.

GRIZZLIES 103, RAPTORS 82

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Marreese Speights had 18 points and 12 rebounds to help Memphis beat Toronto for its third straight win.

Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph finished with 17 points apiece, while Randolph added 13 rebounds and six assists.

Mike Conley had 16 points, going 4 of 5 on 3-pointers,

and Rudy Gay added 14 as the Grizzlies maintained the best record in the NBA (11-2).

DeMar DeRozan led the Raptors with 16 points, while Kyle Lowry and Jose Calderon scored 12 apiece. Linas Kleiza added 11 points, but was 5 of 15 from the field, as Toronto lost its sixth straight. The Raptors played without Andrea Bargnani, their second-leading scorer, who sat out after hurting his left ankle in Tuesday night's loss at Houston.

KNICKS 102, BUCKS 88

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points to lead New York past Milwaukee.

Anthony, who sat out the fourth quarter, was 9 of 18 from the floor and also grabbed eight rebounds in 30 minutes. The second-leading scorer in the NBA has scored at least 29 points in his last four games, including 35 points and 13 rebounds in a 96-89 overtime loss at Brooklyn on Monday.

New York's Steve Novak added 19 points and Tyson Chandler chipped in with 17 points and eight rebounds for the Knicks, who snapped a three-game road losing streak.

Jason Kidd missed his second game in a row for New York with lower back spasms.

Milwaukee's Brandon Jennings and Beno Udrih each scored 18 points. The Bucks have lost four of their last five.

PISTONS 117, SUNS 77

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP) — Brandon Knight and Charlie Villanueva scored 19 points apiece, and Detroit routed Phoenix to win back-to-back games for the first time this season. □

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WR has 'heard' of Viagra use to gain edge on field

ANDREW SELIGMAN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The idea that NFL players might use Viagra to gain an edge on the field left Chicago Bears linebacker Lance Briggs practically in tears — from laughing.

He wasn't the only one. Players cracked jokes about it Thursday, a day after Bears star receiver Brandon Marshall said he had heard that some players were using Viagra and hoping it would give them an advantage during games.

Punch lines aside, experts say it's unlikely the erectile-dysfunction drug would help.

"What would that do? That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard," Minnesota Vikings long snapper Cullen Loeffler said. Bears defensive back D.J. Moore wondered if Marshall was kidding and said: "I've never heard of that." NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Viagra is not a banned substance and declined further comment.

Marshall started it all Wednesday when asked about a growing number of suspensions tied to am-

phetamines, including the ADHD drug Adderall. He said he didn't know much about Adderall, but suggested Viagra could be viewed by players as a way

some of these chemicals that are in some of these things, so you have to be careful."

But using Viagra for more touchdowns and tackles?

me."

Arizona Cardinals defensive lineman Vonnie Holli-day, a 15-year NFL veteran, said some of his teammates were talking about

football performance in NFL players. He also said there is no evidence the drug might somehow mask the use of steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.

Rabin noted that research in high altitudes found the drug helped improve oxygen flow in climbers with impaired lung function. That's because Viagra can dilate blood vessels, and vessels in the lung constrict in high altitudes.

Research involving cyclists at high altitudes found similar benefits,

but Rabin said studies have shown the drug has no effect on athletic performance at sea level.

University of Miami researcher Kevin Jacobs has studied Viagra in simulated high-altitude environments and "didn't find much benefit in young, healthy, active individuals."

"No one has really tested it in football players doing exercise. Whatever benefit they think they're getting is probably more psychological than anything," said Jacobs, an associate professor in the kinesiology and sports sciences department. □



Chicago Bears wide receiver Brandon Marshall (15) gives a stiff arm to Minnesota Vikings cornerback A.J. Jefferson (24) in the first half of an NFL football game in Chicago, Sunday, Nov. 25, 2012.
Associated Press

to boost their energy.

"I know guys, it's such a competitive league, and guys try anything just to get that edge," he said. "I've heard of guys using Viagra, seriously, because the blood, it's supposed to thin. I don't know. Some crazy stuff. It's kind of scary with

"I didn't even know people could do that," New York Giants tight end Martellus Bennett said. And his teammate Justin Tuck added: "I can't imagine why people would take steroids, so I have no comment on Viagra. Besides, my wife would be very upset with

Marshall's Viagra remarks but he had never heard of such a thing himself.

"I don't understand what good it would do," he said. Dr. Olivier Rabin, science director at the World Anti-Doping Agency in Montreal, said it is unlikely Viagra does anything to improve

Mediators fail to help in NHL labor fight

By IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) -- The NHL, the players' association and now even federal mediators agree on one thing: The bickering sides are nowhere near a deal that would put hockey back on the ice.

The league and the union wrapped up two days of talks Thursday in New Jersey, with help from mediators, but moved no closer to a solution to save the sea-

son that has already been delayed and shortened. Two members from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service joined the discussions on Wednesday and Thursday but couldn't bring the sides any closer. "After spending several hours with both sides over two days, the presiding mediators concluded that the parties remained far apart, and that no progress toward a resolution could be made through further medi-

ation at this point in time," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in a statement. "We are disappointed that the mediation process was not successful." Players' association executive director Donald Fehr echoed Daly's remarks Thursday night without offering insight where the process might head next. "This afternoon, the mediators informed the parties that they did not think it was productive to continue the

discussions further today," Fehr said in a statement. "The mediators indicated that they would stay in contact with the league and the NHLPA, and would call the parties back together when they thought the time was right."

The bottom line is that, 75 days into the owners' lock-out of players, there is no end in sight. The lockout has already forced the cancellation of games through Dec. 14, the New

Year's Day Winter Classic, and the All-Star weekend in January.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman offered the union a meeting that would consist of only owners and players - without the presence of leaders on both sides of the dispute - Daly told The Associated Press in an email.

He added that the union was considering the proposal and would get back to the league. □

MLB Roundup

Upton headed to Braves; Pettitte returns to Yanks

MIKE FITZPATRICK

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — B.J. Upton is on his way to the Atlanta Braves and Andy Pettitte is staying with the New York Yankees in decisions which began to heat up Major League Baseball's offseason.

Also, with the winter meetings only days away, a pair of potential closers made their choices: Ryan Madson joined the Los Angeles Angels and Jonathan Broxton remained with the Cincinnati Reds.

Looking for a new center fielder and some right-handed pop, Atlanta found both in Upton, who had 28 homers and 31 steals for Tampa Bay last season. The fleet-footed free agent agreed to a \$75.25 million, five-year contract, a person familiar with the deal said on Wednesday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal had not been completed. It was expected to be announced on Thursday once Upton passes his physical.

Upton's score would be the biggest free-agent contract of the offseason so far and the largest in Braves history.

Pettitte, meanwhile, will return for another season in pinstripes.

Feeling strong at age 40, the veteran lefty pitcher completed a one-year deal worth \$12 million, putting MLB's biggest postseason

winner back in the Bronx. "I think we're good enough to go all the way, I really do," Pettitte said on a conference call. "I'm at the point where, if I didn't feel like we had a chance to win it deep down, I wouldn't do this."

The five-time World Series champion retired after the 2010 season to spend more time at home but then decided to come back this year — while working as an instructor during spring training — and signed a contract guaranteeing him \$2.5 million.

Pettitte went 5-4 with a 2.87 ERA in 12 starts. He missed almost three months after breaking his lower left leg on June 27.

"I definitely think that if I would have pitched a full season and thrown 200 innings, that I definitely wouldn't feel as fresh and physically feel as good as I do right now," Pettitte said. "Obviously, I feel like that helped lead me to a quick decision."

The move means the American League East champs are set to start 2013 with the same rotation as last season: CC Sabathia, Hiroki Kuroda, Pettitte, Phil Hughes and Ivan Nova or David Phelps.

Next up for general manager Brian Cashman could be a contract for 43-year-old closer Mariano Rivera, determined to come back from a torn knee ligament. Madson is making a comeback from Tommy John

surgery, and he agreed to a one-year deal with the Angels five days before the start of MLB's winter meetings in Nashville, Tennessee.

The longtime Philadelphia reliever missed last season with Cincinnati, which signed him in January after a stellar performance in 2011 with the Phillies. He had surgery in April on a torn ligament in his right elbow.

Well ahead of schedule in his recovery, Madson said he expects to be the Angels' closer.

General manager Jerry Dipoto agreed the veteran is likely to supplant Ernesto Frieri when fully healthy.

Broxton isn't sure what role he'll have in Cincinnati after securing a \$21 million, three-year contract that gives the National League Central champions a chance to reconfigure their starting rotation.

The two-time All-Star came to the Reds last July in a trade with Kansas City. He filled in as the closer when Aroldis Chapman developed a tired shoulder and had four saves in six chances overall with a 2.82 ERA.

Now the Reds have the option of turning Chapman into a starter, which was the plan last season until Madson blew out his elbow. The team has told Chapman to prepare for next season as a starter, although it hasn't committed to Broxton as the closer. □



Atlanta Braves newly-signed center fielder B.J. Upton, right, and general manager Frank Wren pose with Upton's jersey during a news conference introducing Upton, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

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<p>Kristen Stewart Robert Pattinson</p> <p>twilight breaking dawn</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 Fri 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 11:55 Sat 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 11:55 Sun & Hol 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25</p>	<p>Mon - Thurs 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 Fri 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 11:55 Sat 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25 / 11:55 Sun & Hol 1:40 / 4:15 / 6:50 / 9:25</p>
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Clinton releases road map for AIDS-free generation

LAURAN NEERGAARD

AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an ambitious road map for slashing the global spread of AIDS, the Obama administration says treating people sooner and more rapid expansion of other proven tools could help even the hardest-hit countries begin turning the tide of the epidemic over the next three to five years.

"An AIDS-free generation is not just a rallying cry — it is a goal that is within our reach," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who ordered the blueprint, said in the report.

"Make no mistake about it, HIV may well be with us into the future but the disease that it causes need not be," she said at the State Department Thursday.

President Barack Obama echoed that promise.

"We stand at a tipping point in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and working together, we can realize our historic opportunity to bring that fight to an end," Obama said in a procla-

mation to mark World AIDS Day on Saturday.

Some 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV, and despite a decline

in new infections over the last decade, 2.5 million people were infected last year.

Given those staggering fig-

ures, what does an AIDS-free generation mean? That virtually no babies are born infected, young people have a much lower risk

than today of becoming infected, and that people who already have HIV would receive life-saving treatment.

That last step is key: Treating people early in their infection, before they get sick, not only helps them survive but also dramatically cuts the chances that they'll infect others. Yet only about 8 million HIV patients in developing countries are getting treatment. The United Nations aims to have 15 million treated by 2015.

Other important steps include: Treating more pregnant women, and keeping them on treatment after their babies are born; increasing male circumcision to lower men's risk of heterosexual infection; increasing access to both male and female condoms; and more HIV testing.

The world spent \$16.8 billion fighting AIDS in poor countries last year. The U.S. government is the leading donor, spending about \$5.6 billion. Thursday's report from PEPFAR, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, outlines how progress could continue at current spending levels — something far from certain as Congress and Obama struggle to avert looming budget cuts at year's end — or how faster progress is possible with stepped-up commitments from hard-hit countries themselves.

Clinton warned Thursday that the U.S. must continue doing its share: "In the fight against HIV/AIDS, failure to live up to our commitments isn't just disappointing, it's deadly." The report highlighted Zambia, which already is seeing some declines in new cases of HIV. It will have to treat only about 145,000 more patients over the next four years to meet its share of the U.N. goal, a move that could prevent more than 126,000 new infections in that same time period. But if Zambia could go further and treat nearly 198,000 more people, the benefit would be even greater — 179,000 new infections prevented, the report estimates. □



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton talks with UNAIDS Executive Director Michel Sidibe, during a ceremony in recognition of World AIDS Day, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, at the State Department in Washington, where they released The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Blueprint' for Creating an AIDS- Free Generation.

(AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

Exercise will help prevent disease

Marjie Gilliam

© 2012 Cox Newspapers

Q: I am not overweight, and my diet is pretty good, but every time I turn around, it seems like I'm being told that I need to exercise to be healthy. Is exercise really all that important?

A: Studies show an unmistakable link between physical activity and health. An estimated 250,000 deaths per year in the United States can be related to lack of regular exercise.

You can reduce this risk by incorporating even small amounts of exercise into your day.

Some examples of the role that exercise, or lack of it, plays in the development of diseases includes:

Heart disease: Individuals who are inactive are more than twice as likely to develop heart disease than those who enjoy an active lifestyle. Exercise, especially aerobic activity, helps to strengthen the cardiovas-

cular system, boosting endurance and stamina and supporting blood vessels.

In a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, brisk walking (3-4 mph) reduced the risk of heart disease in women



nearly as much as vigorous nonwalking exercise, as much as 54 percent reduction in risk.

Hypertension (high blood pressure): Blood pressure is influenced by many things, some of which we can't control such as family his-

tory. Still, there are many controllable factors associated with hypertension, including diet and exercise. Diabetes: People with Type I or Type II (non-insulin dependent) diabetes can benefit from regular exer-

cise. Physical activity helps to regulate blood sugar, aids in metabolism and reduces risk factors for arteriosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), which occurs more often in diabetics. If you have diabetes, certain precautions must be

taken when you exercise. The American Diabetes Association recommends that any diabetic wishing to start an exercise program first consult with a physician.

Stroke: Studies have shown that people who burned 2,000 calories each week with exercise, or the equivalent of a one-hour brisk walk, five days per week, had a 46 percent lower risk of stroke than those who did little or no exercise.

Osteoporosis: Because bone is living tissue, it responds well to a properly designed exercise program. Weight-bearing (standing) exercise such as walking is beneficial, as is light to moderate weight lifting.

Both help to prevent osteoporosis and can slow bone loss if it has already begun. **Tips:** Consult with your doctor for proper guidelines before beginning any exercise program. □

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Microsoft prices Pro version of Surface at \$899

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Microsoft's Surface tablet running a full version of Windows 8 Pro will start selling in January for \$899 and up, the company said Thursday. But you'll have to pay more if you want a keyboard cover and the popular Office suite of software.

The current Surface uses the slimmed down Windows RT operating system. As a result, it runs only specially designed applications from Microsoft and others sold through the company's on-line store. The Pro version of Surface will also run regular Windows applications written for desktops and laptops.

"It's a full PC AND a tablet," Surface general manager Panos Panay wrote in a blog post Thursday.

The Surface represents Microsoft's first foray into manufacturing its own gen-

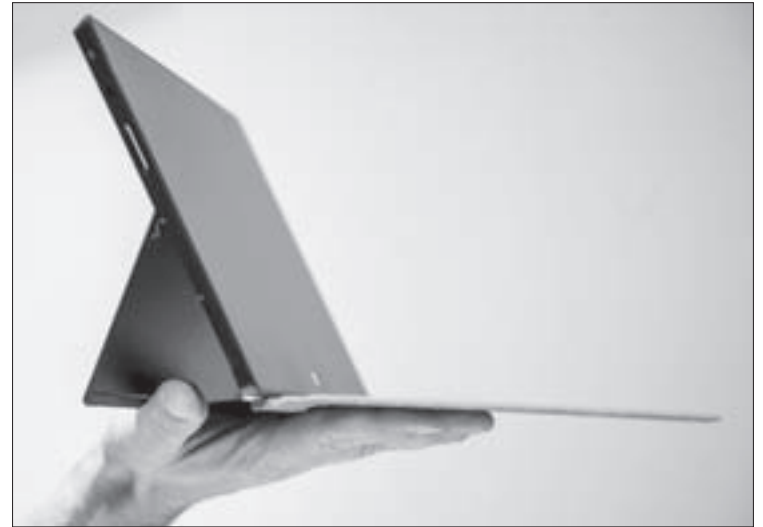
eral-purpose computer. In doing so, the company is competing with some of its partners, the manufacturers of PCs and tablets.

The announced price is in line with Microsoft Corp.'s earlier statements that the Pro version would cost about the same as slim, lightweight laptops known as ultrabooks. The price includes a stylus and software that disregards touches from one's palm while writing on the touch screen. But the detachable touch-sensitive keyboard cover is sold separately. The Touch Cover with keys printed on it costs \$120, while the Type Cover with depressable keys is priced at \$130. The Pro version of Surface will come with Intel's Core i5 processor, which Microsoft said gives it a graphics boost compared with the RT version. The \$899 version will come with 64 gigabytes

of memory, while \$999 gets you 128 GB of memory. It was not immediately clear how much memory would be used up by the operating system and pre-installed apps. For the RT versions, the 32 GB model has only 16 GB of usable memory, while the 64 GB model has 45 GB available.

The RT version of Surface, which starts at \$499, comes with the popular Office programs Word, PowerPoint, Excel and OneNote included. The Pro version does not, according to the specifications listed on a Microsoft website. The cheapest version of Office available is priced at \$120. The RT versions went on sale Oct. 26, the same day Windows 8 was out.

The RT versions are available only at Microsoft's stores and websites. The Redmond, Washington, company did not say



This Monday, June 18, 2012, file photo, shows a profile view of the new Microsoft Surface, a tablet computer in Los Angeles. Tablets are at the top of many wish lists this holiday season.

Associated Press

whether the Pro versions will be sold elsewhere as well. All versions of Surface come with a slot to expand memory and a USB port for

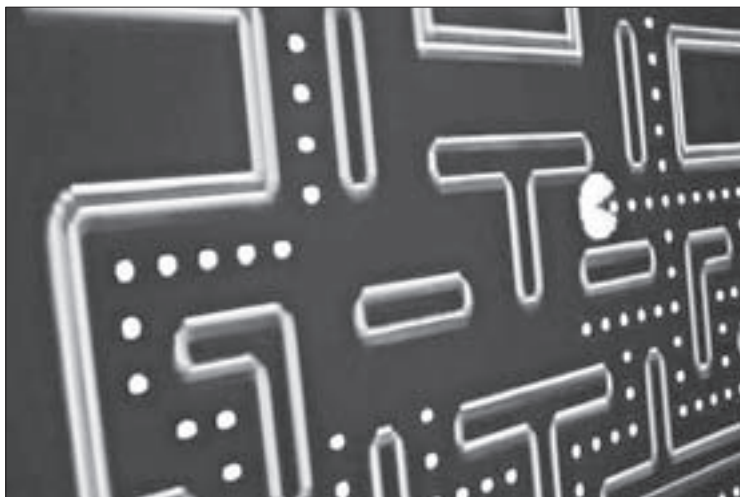
peripherals. The Pro version of Surface comes with a newer, faster USB 3.0 port, while the RT version has 2.0. □

MoMA adds video games to its collection

By **ALLAN KOZINN**

Brendan Hoffman for The New York Times Pac-Man was included in an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum earlier this year.

If you have been disparaging video games — or, perhaps, trying to wean yourself from an addiction to them — it's time to think again. Video games are now high culture, with the imprimatur of the Museum of Modern Art, which announced on Thursday that it has acquired the first 14 titles in a planned collection of about 40 games. These constitute a new category among the museum's collections, and will be on display in the Philip Johnson Galleries starting in March. (An exhibition devoted to video games will open in



Pac-Man was included in an exhibition at the Smithsonian American Art Museum earlier this year.

Brendan Hoffman for The New York Times

December at the Museum of the Moving Image, and another exhibition, at the Smithsonian American Art Museum, closed in September.) "Are video games art?" Paola Antonelli, senior curator in the museum's

department of architecture and design, asked in a post on the museum's web page. "They sure are, but they are also design, and a design approach is what we chose for this new foray into this universe. □



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Stocks rise and fall with budget talks, data

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Optimism that a budget deal will be reached in Washington sent stocks modestly higher Thursday. A pair of economic reports also brightened the mood.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 36.71 points, or 0.3 percent, to close at 13,021.82.

The stock market took a brief turn lower when House Speaker John Boehner said little progress was being made in budget talks in Washington. The Dow was up as much as 77 points in morning trading, turned negative as Boehner made his remarks at 11:30 a.m., then slowly recovered in the afternoon.

Investors were encouraged by several positive economic reports, including a higher estimate of third-quarter U.S. economic growth, an increase in home sales and a drop in claims for unemployment benefits.

After a meeting with Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Boehner told reporters that Democrats still haven't said which cuts they would accept to government benefit programs, suggesting a final budget deal remains a long way off. Republicans have said that they are open to increasing tax revenues as part of an agreement but only if they're accompanied by significant cuts to spending.

Investors have been closely watching the talks between the White House and Congress over the "fiscal cliff",

a reference to sharp government spending cuts and tax increases scheduled to start Jan. 1 unless a deal is reached to cut the budget

deficit. New developments in the talks have whipsawed the market.

"It's a headline-watching market with this fiscal cliff,"



Tiffany & Co. said Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, third-quarter net income fell 30 percent, stung by a higher-than-expected tax rate, ongoing economic weakness and high precious metal and diamond costs. Optimism that a budget deal will be reached in Washington sent stocks modestly higher Thursday. A pair of economic reports also brightened the mood. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)

said David Brown, chief market strategist of the investment research firm Sabrient Systems.

Brown says the ongoing negotiations are likely to cause the stock market to take sudden turns in the weeks ahead. "But things seem to be moving in the right direction," Brown said. "I don't think either party wants to get pinned with hurting the market or the economy."

In other trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 rose 6.02 points to 1,415.95. The Nasdaq composite index gained 20.25 points to 3,012.03.

In the market for government bonds, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note slipped to 1.62 percent from 1.63 percent late Wednesday.

Stock in Guess gained 55 cents to \$25.81 after the clothing maker joined the ranks of companies pledging special dividends to shareholders before favorable tax rates on dividends expire at the end of the year. The clothing company said it will make a one-time payment of \$1.20 per share on top of its regular quarterly dividend of 20 cents.

Dividends, now taxed at 15 percent, will be treated like ordinary income next year unless Congress and the White House extend current tax breaks as part of a budget deal.

The Commerce Department raised its estimate for U.S. economic growth to an annual rate of 2.7 percent in the July-through-September period. □

LivingSocial cuts 400 jobs worldwide

BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Online deals company LivingSocial is cutting 400 jobs worldwide, or about 9 percent of its work force, as the deals market continues to face challenges.

LivingSocial spokesman Andrew Weinstein said Thursday that all but a few dozen of the cuts are in the United States. The company's sales force faced the highest number of cuts, while others are in customer service and editorial, the people paid to write up the deals.

LivingSocial said it is moving its customer service op-

erations to Tucson, Arizona, from Washington, where it has its headquarters.

Weinstein said the job cuts

came as part of a review of LivingSocial's global operations. He said the review was designed to

make sure that the company has the resources it needs to invest in areas that are "critical to the future," such as marketing and mobile. Over the past year or so, online deals have gone from fad to a much-copied business model that's easy to set up but difficult to sustain. LivingSocial is one of the largest of the online deals companies, behind No. 1 Groupon Inc. The job cuts came a day after Groupon CEO Andrew Mason said "it would be weird" if his board wasn't discussing whether he was the right person for the job amid the company's poor stock performance. □



Ross Arbes, 24, left, plays ping pong while on break at LivingSocial's offices in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

Zucker to be President of CNN network

BILL CARTER
BRIAN STELTER
© 2012 New York Times

CNN made official Thursday morning its decision to install Jeff Zucker, the former chief executive of NBC, as the new president of CNN Worldwide.

The announcement culminated a monthslong search to find a replacement for Jim Walton, who had led CNN to record profits even as ratings for its U.S. network, CNN/U.S., hit record lows. The network announced in July that Walton would step down at the end of the year.

Zucker will be expected to revive the U.S. network to competitive standing against its rivals, Fox News and MSNBC, even as it maintains its position as a nonpartisan news network opposing those speaking from the right (Fox) and left (MSNBC). CNN said that Zucker would start his new assignment in January.

He will arrive at CNN carrying the baggage of the collapse of NBC's own broadcast network, which descended from dominance in prime time to last-place status under Zucker, even as the company's cable networks, including MSNBC, thrived under him. But Zucker also brings a reputation for leadership in news, which he forged in two tenures leading NBC's "Today" show to dominance in morning ratings and profits.

Time Warner's chief executive, Jeffrey L. Bewkes, and his deputy, Phil Kent, the head of Turner Broadcasting, were known to have sought candidates with the right combination of management skills, programming expertise and journalistic credibility to oversee CNN's many channels and websites.

There was a short list, and Zucker was on it from the beginning. □

US economy grew at 2.7% rate in summer

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy grew at a 2.7 percent annual rate from July through September, much faster than first thought. The strength is expected to fade in the final months of the year because of the impact of Superstorm Sandy and uncertainty about looming tax increases and government spending cuts.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that growth in the third quarter was significantly better than the 2 percent rate estimated a month ago. And it was more than twice the 1.3 percent rate reported for the April-June quarter.

The main reason for the upward revision to the gross domestic product was businesses restocked at a faster pace than previously estimated. That offset

weaker consumer spending growth.

GDP measures the nation's total output of goods and services — from restaurant

below 2 percent in the current October-December quarter. That's generally considered too weak to rapidly lower the unem-



Production line workers at Chesapeake Bay Candle factory in Glen Burnie Md. The U.S. economy grew at a 2.7 percent annual rate from July through September, much faster than first thought. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

meals and haircuts to airplanes, appliances and highways.

Most economists say economic growth is slowing to

ployment rate.

Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, said companies are likely restocking more

slowly now. Businesses typically cut back on restocking when they think consumers will spend less. Consumer spending drives roughly 70 percent of economic activity. Economists cite two reasons for the anticipated weakness in consumer and business spending. Superstorm Sandy halted business activity along the East Coast in late October and November. And spending may weaken in the final weeks of the year, if lawmakers and Obama fail to reach a deal to avoid the "fiscal cliff." That's the name for sharp tax increases and spending cuts that would occur in January without a deal. Companies are "likely thinning inventories just in case Congress fails to do its job, which is always a possibility," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors. □

Hostess ready for its big bake sale

CANDICE CHOI

AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Hostess Brands Inc. got final approval for its wind-down plans in bankruptcy court Thursday, setting the stage for its iconic snack cakes to find a second life with new owners — even as 18,000 jobs will be wiped out.

The company said in court that it's in talks with 110 potential buyers for its brands, which include CupCakes, Ding Dongs and Ho Hos. The suitors include at least five national retailers such as supermarkets, a financial adviser for Hostess said. The process has been "so fast and furious" Hostess wasn't able to make its planned calls to potential buyers, said Joshua Scherer of Perella Weinberg Partners.

"Not only are these buyers serious, but they are expecting to spend substantial sums," he said, noting that six of them had hired investment banks to help

in the process. The update on the sale process came as Hostess also received approval to give its top executives bonuses totaling up to \$1.8 million for meeting certain budget goals

which could take about a year. Two of those executives would be eligible for additional rewards depending on how efficiently they carry out the liquidation. The compensation



Twinkies baked goods are displayed for sale at the Hostess Brands' bakery in Denver, Colo. (AP Photo/Brennan Linsley)

to bring down costs during the liquidation. The company says the incentive pay is needed to retain the 19 corporate officers and "high-level managers" during the wind down process,

would be on top of their regular pay. The bonuses do not include pay for CEO Gregory Rayburn, who was brought on as a restructuring expert earlier this year. Rayburn is being paid

\$125,000 a month. Hostess was given interim approval for its wind-down last week, which gave the company the legal protection to immediately fire 15,000 union workers. The company said the terminations were necessary to free up workers to apply for unemployment benefits. About 3,200 employees are being retained to help in winding down operations, including 237 employees at the corporate level.

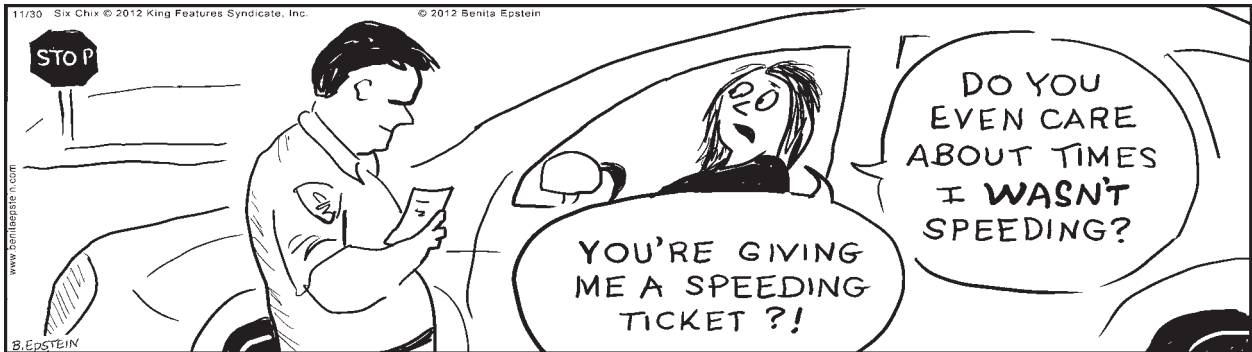
The bakers union, Hostess' second-largest union, has asked the judge to appoint an independent trustee to oversee the liquidation, saying that the current management "has been woefully unsuccessful in its reorganization attempts." Hostess had already said last week that it was getting a flood of interest from potential buyers for its brands, which also include Devil Dogs and Wonder bread. □

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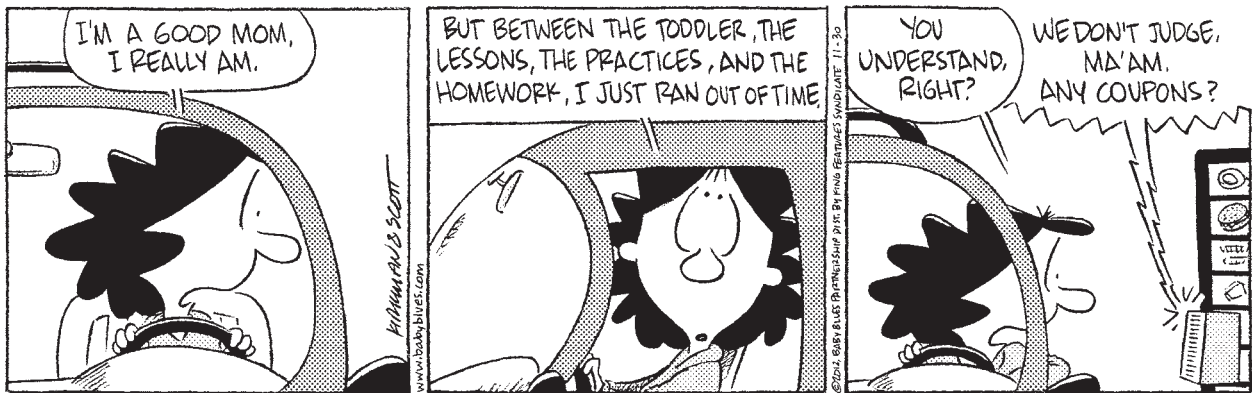
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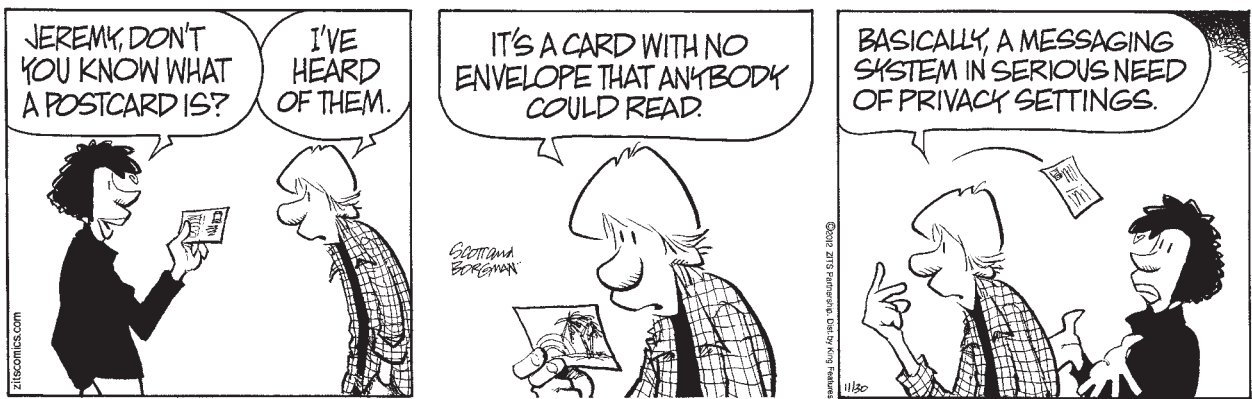
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	7							9
			7	6	8			
		2					5	
	6			9				7
	9		2		4			1
	2			5				8
		4					2	
			9	3	7			
	5							3

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/30

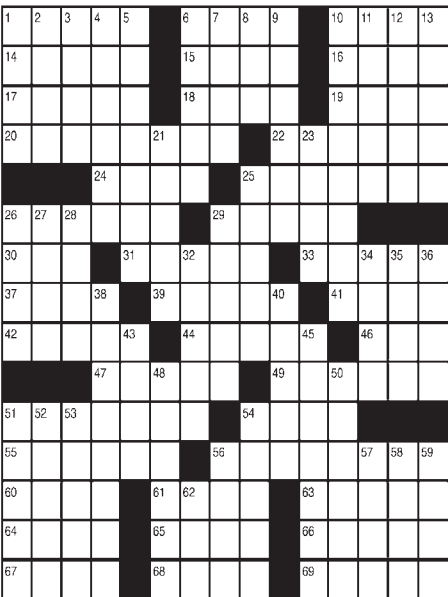
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1
3	9	7	5	1	6	4	2	8
1	2	8	7	3	4	9	5	6
4	1	2	6	5	3	8	9	7
7	5	9	4	2	8	6	1	3
8	6	3	9	7	1	2	4	5
9	8	1	3	4	7	5	6	2
2	7	6	1	9	5	3	8	4
5	3	4	8	6	2	1	7	9

ACROSS

- 1 Snake
- 6 City in Texas
- 10 Volcanic output
- 14 Without companions
- 15 Border on
- 16 Fills with wonder
- 17 Snow vehicles
- 18 Held on to
- 19 Horse shelter
- 20 Highly respected
- 22 Show up
- 24 Abbr. following many poems
- 25 Turtleneck or cardigan
- 26 Upper body garments
- 29 Prim & proper
- 30 Sirs
- 31 Mister in Spain
- 33 Gallant
- 37 Sworn promise
- 39 Used a tooth-bladed tool
- 41 Fanny
- 42 Unhappiness
- 44 Cried like a cat
- 46 Big _; semi
- 47 Was fond of
- 49 Nightclub
- 51 Genteel; well-bred
- 54 Fine spray
- 55 Citrus fruit
- 56 Pariahs
- 60 Drill a hole
- 61 Dweeb
- 63 Remove a lid
- 64 Lofty poems
- 65 Mild oath
- 66 Instrument for viewing
- 67 Actress Harper
- 68 _-poly; short and plump
- 69 Stitched



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/30/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

HUNS	SLABS	LOAF
ANON	CUGAT	OGRE
MINE	ABODE	ALMA
STEEPLE	GABFEST	
	ROD	PEKOE
STEEP	FAR	GRADE
PEAR	BED	RUSSIA
APT	PUDDLES	PAR
SEEMED	LAD	PENT
MERIT	FEB	DINAH
	SALAD	HER
SETTLER	DONALDS	
AREA	AMBER	NEAT
RINK	SEALS	HATE
ANTE	ERNIE	ADAM

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DOWN

- 1 Urn, for one
- 2 Misfortunes
- 3 Longfellow or Wordsworth
- 4 Make beloved; charm
- 5 Is offended by
- 6 Arouse
- 7 Not up yet
- 8 Coffee holder
- 9 Capital of Canada
- 10 Hunting dog
- 11 Look for expectantly
- 12 Zest; gusto
- 13 Portrayer of TV's Lou Grant
- 21 Red Sea divider
- 23 Harness strap
- 25 Scatter
- 26 Air pollution
- 27 Cure
- 28 3 _ 12 is 4
- 29 Planted seeds
- 32 Appointed
- 34 Ernie's buddy
- 35 Hideaway
- 36 Thus
- 38 Sanctity
- 40 Sum deducted
- 43 Chinese dynasty known for porcelain
- 45 Talk about
- 48 Sharper mentally
- 50 Position
- 51 Mechanical man
- 52 Eat away at
- 53 Passengers' payments
- 54 Like a garden after the rain
- 56 Spoken
- 57 Flat-bottomed boat
- 58 Record
- 59 Drove too fast
- 62 Sense of self-esteem

Party's over, but nostalgia lingers

AMY QIN

© 2012 New York Times

BEIJING – No more red lanterns and flags. Forget the vast swath of red carpet, the smiling hostesses in matching outfits and the pot of towering multi-colored flowers. On a recent blustery afternoon in Tiananmen Square, as autumn leaves blanketed nearby parks, there was little evidence remaining of the weeklong political pageant that had taken place this month in the Great Hall of the People.

In mid-November, the square was closed to the public for more than a week as 2,268 Communist Party delegates converged on the hall for the extravaganza known as the 18th Party Congress. Xi Jinping and six other men in dark suits officially made their debut as the new leaders of China after months of factional infighting and back-room politicking. Those politicians have since demonstrated a keen desire to leave behind the pageantry and dive straight into the process of consolidating power and delivering speeches laden with standard party language.

The departure of the congress, though, has left some of Beijing's 20 million or so residents with a sense of nostalgia.

Liu Ji, 63, was one of the many sprightly retirees called upon by security officials this month to work as an informal traffic cop, taking to the streets to keep unruly pedestrians and drivers in line. In a city with more than 5 million registered cars, it was not the most relaxing task. But Liu, a longtime Communist Party member, said it was an honor to play a role during the weeklong event, even if it meant tackling the city's nightmarish congestion equipped with only a red armband and a flag. "To help out even just a little is a glorious feeling," she said.

But now, the heart of this ancient capital has returned to what passes for normal these days: hazy gray skies above the granite ex-

pause; crowds of tourists, both Chinese and foreign, milling around and posing for photographs; and uniformed security officers watching them carefully in front of the Forbidden City. (Less familiar was the sight of some of those officers zipping around the square on two-wheeled, Segway-like vehicles as the ageless Mao Zedong gazed down from his portrait.)

Elsewhere, pirated DVDs and English-language books on China have reappeared on shelves after having been relegated to

As for Liu, she has gone back to spending her days in her traditional hutong alleyway home near the city center. With the bitter Beijing winter approaching and the chilly winds sweeping in from Mongolia, she said she was still optimistic that her No.1 concern – having local officials switch the heating in her home from coal-fired stoves to electric radiators – would be addressed by the district government. Her faith in China's leaders was reaffirmed after she saw the ease and confi-



Pedestrians pass by wrapped plastic red lanterns, used to decorate the streets in celebration of the 18th Party Congress, in Beijing. In mid-November, the square was closed to the public for more than a week as 2,268 Communist Party delegates converged on the Great Hall for the extravaganza known as the 18th Party Congress.

(Gilles Sabrie/The New York Times)

storerooms in some shops. Several prominent activists who were asked to leave Beijing during the conclave have slowly found their way back to their homes.

And the annual Beijing Marathon, which had been postponed for weeks because of the congress, finally took place last Sunday. For the 30,000 or so participants who ran in it during a morning in which the U.S. Embassy air-quality monitoring machine rated the air as "hazardous," it was just another typical polluted day.

dence with which Xi delivered his inaugural speech on Nov. 15, the day after the close of congress. "And his Mandarin Chinese – when is the last time we heard a leader speak so clearly?" she asked. But her only son, Li Shuo, 33, is a member of the generation of Chinese who, having grown up in more prosperous times than their parents, are asking deeper questions about whether the leaders can deliver on promises of a better quality of life and improved human rights. □

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ALICIA CHANG

AP Science Writer

Using a new dating tool, a team of scientists came up with a different age for the western section of the gorge in the U.S. southwest, challenging conventional wisdom that much of the canyon was scoured by the mighty Colorado River in the last 5 million to 6 million years.

Not everyone is convinced with the latest viewpoint published online Thursday in the journal *Science*.

Critics contend the study ignores a mountain of evidence pointing to a geologically young landscape and they have doubts about the technique used to date it.

The notion that the Grand Canyon existed during the dinosaur era is "ludicrous," said geologist Karl Karlstrom of the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

How the Grand Canyon became grand — with its vertical cliffs and flat plateaus — has been debat-



In this Dec. 7, 2006 file photo, tourists visit the Hualapai Indian Reservation along the western end of the Grand Canyon. A new study published in the journal Science Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, suggests the western Grand Canyon formed 70 million years ago. Associated Press

ed since John Wesley Powell navigated the white-water rapids and scouted the sheer walls during his famous 1869 expedition.

Some 5 million tourists flock to Arizona each year to marvel at the 277-mile-long (445-kilometer-long) chasm, which plunges a mile deep in some places. It's a geologic layer cake with the most recent rock formations near the rim stacked on top of older rocks that date back 2 billion years.

Though the exposed rocks are ancient, most scientists believe the Grand Canyon itself was forged in the recent geologic past, created when tectonic forces uplifted the land that the Colorado River later carved through.

The new work by researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder and California Institute of Technology argued that canyon-cutting occurred long before that. They focused on the western end of the Grand Canyon occupied today by the Hualapai Reservation, which owns the Skywalk attraction, a horseshoe-shaped glass bridge that extends from the canyon's edge.

To come up with the age, the team crushed rocks collected from the bottom of the canyon to analyze a rare type of mineral called apatite. The mineral contains traces of radioactive elements that release helium during decay, allowing researchers to calculate

the passage of time since the canyon eroded.

Their interpretation: The western Grand Canyon is 70 million years old and was likely shaped by an ancient river that coursed in the opposite direction of the west-flowing Colorado. Lead researcher Rebecca Flowers of the University of Colorado Boulder realizes not everyone will accept this alternative view, which minimizes the role of the Colorado River.

"Arguments will continue over the age of Grand Canyon, and I hope our study will stimulate more work to decipher the mysteries," Flowers said in an email.

It's not the first time that Flors has dug up evidence for an older Grand Canyon. In 2008, she authored a study that suggested part of the eastern Grand Canyon, where most tourists go, formed 55 million years ago. Another study published that same year by a different group

of researchers put the age of the western section at 17 million years old.

If the Grand Canyon truly existed before dinosaurs became extinct, it would have looked vastly different because the climate back then was more tropical.

Dinosaurs that patrolled the American West then included smaller tyrannosaurs, horned and dome-headed dinosaurs and duckbills.

If they peered over the rim, it would not look like “the starkly beautiful desert of today, but an environment with more lush vegetation,” said University of Maryland paleontologist Thomas Holtz.

Many scientists find it hard to imagine an ancient Grand Canyon since the oldest gravel and sediment that washed downstream date to about 6 million years ago and there are no signs of older deposits. And while they welcome advanced dating methods to decipher the canyon's age, Karlstrom of the University of New Mexico does not think the latest effort is very accurate.

Karlstrom said it also defies logic that a fully formed canyon would sit unchanged for tens of millions of years without undergoing further erosion.

Geologist Richard Young of the State University of New York at Geneseo said his own work suggests there was a cliff in the place of the ancient Grand Canyon.

Flowers "wants to have a canyon there. I want to have a cliff there. Obviously, one of us can't be right," he said.

Whatever the age, there may be a middle ground, said Utah State University geologist Joel Pederson. □

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In this Aug. 2, 2012 file photo, former boxer Mike Tyson takes part in a curtain call following his 'Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth' performance in New York. Associated Press

Mike Tyson to take his 1-man show nationwide

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Lock up your ears — Mike Tyson's coming to a theater near you. The former champion boxer and convicted rapist will take his one-man show "Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth" on a three-month tour to more than a dozen cities, including Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Detroit and Washington, D.C. The two-hour show, directed by Spike Lee and

written by Tyson's wife, Kiki, debuted in Las Vegas and had a limited run on Broadway this summer. The tour starts in Indianapolis in February. The show traces Iron Mike's rise from violent street hood in Brooklyn to a fearsome athlete. Then comes the fall — prison inmate, tabloid target, cocaine and Evander Holyfield's delicious ear. There are stories about first wife Robin Givens, promoter Don King and Brad Pitt. □

Steven Tyler addresses Nicki Minaj 'racist' claim

NEW YORK (AP) — Steven Tyler is apologizing — if Nicki Minaj misinterpreted his recent comments. The former "American Idol" judge and Aerosmith frontman responded to Minaj's claim that he's a racist. Minaj took offense to comments Tyler made during an MTV interview in which he said Bob Dylan would likely be immediately dismissed from this year's show. "Idol" premieres Jan. 16 on the Fox network with Minaj, Mariah Carey and Keith Urban serving as new judges. The rapper called the comment racist and fired an expletive at the Aerosmith frontman, as well. During an interview with the Canadian entertainment news program "eTalk," Tyler spoke directly to Minaj, saying: "I apologize if it was taken wrong, Nicki." "I am the farthest from — what did she say I was? — a racist," Tyler



In this Nov. 2, 2012 file photo, Steven Tyler of Aerosmith performs on NBC's "Today" show in New York. Associated Press

said in the interview. "I'm the last thing on this planet as far as being a racist. I don't know where she got that out of me saying I'm not sure how she would have judged Bob Dylan. I was just saying that if Bob Dylan came on the show, he would've been thrown off, so maybe I spoke out of turn. But a racist I am not, Nicki." □

Attorney expects Lohan will be cleared in NYC case

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lindsay Lohan was charged Thursday with crimes in New York and Los Angeles, marking her latest setbacks as she tries to revive her career and avoid a return to jail.

Prosecutors in California charged Lohan with three misdemeanors related to a June accident. Hours earlier, the actress was arrested and charged with third-degree assault, also a misdemeanor, after a woman was punched in a New York City nightclub. The California charges came about six months after Lohan's Porsche crashed into the back of a dump truck. She told police her assistant was driving, but detectives now believe the actress was behind the wheel as she headed to a movie set.

In that case, Lohan, 26, was charged with lying to police, reckless driving and obstructing a police officer from performing duties. Lohan's California attorney, Shawn Holley, said she could not comment on the crash-related charges.

In New York, her attorney Mark Heller said he expects the assault charge to be dismissed.

"Once again, Lindsay Lohan is a victim of someone trying to capture their 15 minutes of fame," Heller wrote in a statement. "From my initial investigation, I am completely confident that this case will be concluded favorably and that Lindsay will be totally exonerated." The California charges could trigger another probation violation for Lohan, who was ordered to stay



Lindsay Lohan, second from right, is escorted from the 10th Precinct police station, with her face shielded, Thursday, Nov. 29, 2012, in New York after being charged for allegedly striking a woman at a nightclub. Associated Press

out of trouble when she was released from supervised probation in March after being convicted of the misdemeanor theft of a necklace and two drunken driving charges.

Since then she has been arrested twice in New York, crashed her car on Pacific Coast Highway, been treated by paramedics in her hotel room, and gotten in an argument with her mother that prompted a call to police.

None of the events are likely what the clearly relieved actress anticipated in March when she thanked Superior Court Judge Stephanie Sautner, who warned the actress that she could face up to 245 days in jail if she violated her probation again.

"You need to live your life in a more mature way, stop the nightclubbing and focus on your work," Sautner said. In recent years, Lohan has been sentenced to the Los Angeles-area women's jail five times. Most of her stays have been short

due to overcrowding, and she was allowed to serve 35 days on house arrest in 2011. Lately, Lohan has been filming two movies and doing a cameo in the latest installment of the "Scary Movie" franchise. The first film, "Liz & Dick," premiered Sunday night on Lifetime to mostly negative reviews. She was on her way to shoot scenes for "Liz & Dick" in June when her Porsche crashed into the dump truck and the actress was briefly hospitalized. A week later, paramedics were summoned to her hotel room. Her then-publicist Steve Honig attributed the health scare to exhaustion and dehydration.

Lohan relocated to New York after finishing her work on "Liz and Dick" and a Bret Easton Ellis film titled "The Canyons" was complete. Her arrest at 4 a.m. EST Thursday was the latest by New York police since September, when a man accused her of hitting him with her car. Prosecutors did not pursue charges. □

Father of Michael Jackson suffers mild stroke

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A spokeswoman for Michael Jackson's father says the musical family's patriarch has suffered a mild stroke. Angel Howansky says Joe Jackson went to a Las Vegas hospital late Wednesday night when he had trouble standing up and

walking. She says the 83-year-old Jackson was having pains in his head but reports he is feeling fine Thursday and should be released on Friday.

She says he called a friend who drove him to the hospital. Jackson's wife, Katherine, is reportedly on her

way to Las Vegas to be with him. Jackson has maintained a residence there for many years while his wife lives in Los Angeles, where she cares for the late pop star's children.

Howansky says Jackson has had small strokes at least twice before this. □



In this May 7, 2012 file photo, Daniel Radcliffe arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute gala benefit, celebrating Elsa Schiaparelli and Miuccia Prada, in New York. Associated Press

'Potter' star heads to Sundance fest

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe has landed his first entry in the Sundance Film Festival. Radcliffe plays poet Allen Ginsberg in the drama "Kill Your Darlings," which premieres next January at Robert Redford's Sundance festival. "Kill Your Darlings" was among 16 films announced Wednesday that will compete for the festival's top prize in the U.S. dramatic competition. Directed by John Krokidas, "Kill Your Darlings" co-stars Elizabeth Olsen, Ben Foster and Jack Huston in the story of a murder that brings the young Ginsberg together with fellow future Beat Generation heroes Jack Kerouac and William S. Burroughs at Columbia University in 1944. □

Another Yoda statue, U.S. Star Wars fans may get



In this Aug. 2, 2011 photo, a life-sized replica of Yoda, George Lucas' master of the Force, is shown at Lucasfilm Ltd. production studios in San Francisco.

SAN ANSELMO, California (AP) — Star Wars fans might soon have another Yoda statue in the San Francisco Bay area to visit. Filmmaker George Lucas plans to help build a small park in Marin County that would feature a bronze sculpture of the popular Star Wars character, along with one of Indiana Jones. Lucas' estate manager,

Sarita Patel, said the Yoda statue would be similar to one in San Francisco's Presidio neighborhood. That one — a full-sized replica of the Jedi sage — lies atop a fountain outside an arts center where Lucas moved most of his operations in 2005. It has become a big draw for fans. Lucas applied for a permit Wednesday to demolish a

building on the site of the planned park in San Anselmo, the town where he lives, the Marin Independent Journal reported. He announced over the summer that he planned to donate the land where the building sits to the San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce, and donate the statues for the proposed park. Lucas has since also agreed to pay for the building's demolition. The chamber hopes to raise \$150,000 to \$200,000 to create the park. San Anselmo Town Manager Debra Stutsman said the demolition application, which includes a historical analysis of the building, will be reviewed by the town's Planning Commission and Historical Commission. The building, as well as a fresco inside, date back to 1945. Patel said Lucas plans to donate the fresco to the Spanish consulate in San Francisco. Lucas built his film operation in Marin County and had planned to put up a palatial new digital media production studio there. But he abandoned those plans earlier this year in the face of opposition from neighbors and what he said were delays in the approval process. □

Attorneys say Halle Berry, ex settle dispute

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Attorneys for Halle Berry and her ex-boyfriend have settled court issues that arose after a Thanksgiving Day fight at the actress' home. The fisticuffs involved Berry's ex-boyfriend Gabriel Aubry and her fiancé, actor Olivier Martinez. Aubry was arrested after the fight, which left him with a black eye, a broken rib and other injuries. Aubry obtained a temporary restraining order against Martinez. The model and Berry have been battling over custody of their 4-year-old daughter for months and have appeared twice in a family law court since the fight. Blair Berk, an attorney for Berry, and Shawn Holley, who represents Aubry, released a statement after Thursday's hearing that said the two sides had reached an amicable agreement. No details were released, and the attorneys declined to answer questions. □



French actor Gerard Depardieu poses at a photo-call of the film 'Mammuth' in Berlin, Germany, in this file photo dated Friday, Feb. 19, 2010.

ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French actor Gerard Depardieu was detained Thursday for al-

legedly driving drunk on his scooter, police said. The 63-year-old actor, who has appeared in more than 150 films, was brought in to

Gerard Depardieu caught allegedly driving drunk

a Paris police station Thursday afternoon, an official with the Paris police department said. The Paris prosecutor's office ordered him detained, the official said. She spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations. The burly actor was picked up off after he fell off his scooter in northwest Paris, the Sipa news agency reported. He failed a sobriety

test and was taken to a police station, according to Sipa. A call to Depardieu's management company was not returned Thursday night. Thursday's incident was one of several encounters with the law for Depardieu. He grabbed headlines when he urinated in the aisle of a plane before takeoff on a Paris to Dublin flight. He was removed from the aircraft.

In 1998, he crashed his motorcycle when his blood-alcohol limit was five times over the legal level, escaping with leg and face injuries. Depardieu, a bon vivant who overcame a speech impediment and a childhood of neglect to become one of France's most popular and versatile film stars, was nominated for an Academy Award for his role in the 1990 film "Cyrano de Bergerac." □

Make Up Turned Break



MAUREEN DOWD

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WASHINGTON — Are the Republican senators unreasonable? Or is the secretary of state-manque undiplomatic? Did the senators sandbag Susan Rice? Or did Rice further inflame a tense situation? Is it a case of shooting the messenger and playing politics? Or is national security dangerously infected with politics?

It seems as if it would have been simple enough for Rice to quickly admit that the administration talking points she used on the Sept. 16 Sunday shows about the slaughter in Benghazi were misleading. But she went silent. She has no wartime consigliere and, aside from the president's angry postelection defense of Rice, the White House — perhaps relieved that she was taking the heat rather than the president — wasn't running a strong damage control operation that clarified matters. Still, on last Sunday's talk shows, John McCain and Lindsey Graham softened their tone a bit. "She's not the problem," McCain said. "The problem is the president of the United States," for failing to swiftly tell Americans what his intelligence agencies had confirmed: that Benghazi was a terrorist attack involving al-Qaida affiliates.

When Rice asked to come to the Hill to meet with some of her Republican critics, it seemed detente was nigh. But somehow the hour-and-a-half pow-wow caused an escalation, with McCain, Graham and Sen. Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire emerging to say they had more reservations than before. Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, who is scheduled to meet with Rice on Wednesday, suggested that she would be better suited to run the Democratic National Committee than State. If Rice can't soothe the egos of some cranky GOP pols, how would she negotiate with China?

Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, the soft-spoken ranking member on the homeland security committee, hasn't been part of this shrill debate. Though they had met only once or twice, Collins agreed to introduce Rice to the Foreign Relations Committee in 2009 when Rice was nominated as the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Rice's grandparents immigrated from Jamaica to Portland, Maine.

"I don't bear any animus to her at all," the senator said. "In fact, to the contrary."

But she said she is "troubled" by Rice's role. "If I wanted to be secretary of state," Collins observed, "I would not go on television and perform what was essentially a political role."

Collins drew up a list of questions to ask Rice at their one-on-one hourlong meeting slated for Wednesday. She wants Rice to explain how she could promote a story "with such certitude" about a spontaneous demonstration over the anti-Muslim video that was so at odds with the classified information to which the ambassador had access. (It was also at odds with common sense, given that there were al-Qaida sympathizers among the rebel army members that overthrew Moammar Gadhafi with help from the U.S. — an intervention advocated by Rice — and Islamic extremist training camps in the Benghazi area.)

The FBI interviewed survivors of the attack in Germany and, according to some senators, had done most of the interviews of those on-site by Sept. 15, the day before Rice went on TV, and established that there was no protest. Collins wants to learn if the FBI had failed to communicate that, or if they had communicated it and Rice went ahead anyway? When Rice heard the president of the Libyan National Congress tell Bob Schieffer on "Face the Nation," right before her appearance, that 50 people had been arrested who were either foreign or affiliated with or sympathized with al-Qaida, why did she push back with the video story? "Why wouldn't she think what the Libyan president said mattered?" Collins wondered.

Why did Rice say on ABC News' "This Week," that "two of the four Americans who were killed were there providing security"? Rice was referring to the two ex-Navy SEAL team members who were CIA security officers working on a base about a mile away. "They weren't there to protect Ambassador Stevens," Collins said. "That wasn't their job."

Rice also said that "we had a substantial security presence with our personnel" — which was clearly not the case. Collins wants to know Rice's basis for saying on ABC that the attacks were "a direct result of a heinous and offensive video?" And why did she say "a small number of people" came to the consulate to protest, when that phrase is not in her talking points? Collins is curious why Rice is not angrier, if, as she insists, she was repeating what she was told. "I'd be furious at the White House and FBI and intelligence community for destroying my credibility," the senator said. Collins said that before she would support Rice for secretary of state, she needs to ascertain what was really going on. "Did they think admitting that it was an al-Qaida attack would destroy the narrative of Libya being a big success story?" Collins asked. As one of the administration champions of intervening in Libya, Rice was surely rooting for that success story herself. □



My Secretary Of



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

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President Barack Obama is assembling his new national security team, with Sen. John Kerry possibly heading for the Pentagon and U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice the perceived front-runner to become secretary of state. Kerry is an excellent choice for defense. I don't know Rice at all, so I have no opinion on her fitness for the job, but I think the contrived flap over her Libya comments certainly shouldn't disqualify her. That said, my own nominee for secretary of state would be the current education secretary, Arne Duncan. Yes, yes, I know. Duncan is not seeking the job and is not the least bit likely to be appointed. But I'm nominating him because I think this is an important time to ask the question of not just who should be secretary of state, but what should the secretary of state be in the 21st century? Let's start with the obvious. A big part of the job is negotiating. Well, anyone who has negotiated with the Chicago Teachers Union, as Duncan did when he was superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools before going to Washington, would find negotiating with the Russians and Chinese a day at the beach. A big part of being secretary of education (and secretary of state) is getting

allies and adversaries to agree on things they normally wouldn't — and making them think that it was all their idea. Trust me, if you can cut such deals with Randi Weingarten, who is president of the American Federation of Teachers, you can do them with Vladimir Putin and Bibi Netanyahu.

A big part of the job of secretary of state is also finding common ground between multiple constituencies: Congress, foreign countries, big business, the White House, the Pentagon and the diplomats. The same is true for a school superintendent, but the constituencies between which they have to forge common ground are so much more intimidating: They're called "parents," "teachers," "students" and "school boards."

There is a deeper point here: The biggest issue in the world today is growth, and, in this information age, improving educational outcomes for more young people is now the most important lever for increasing economic growth and narrowing income inequality. In other words, education is now the key to sustainable power. To have a secretary of state who is one of the world's leading authorities on education, well, everyone would want to talk to him. For instance, it would be very helpful to have a secretary of state who can start a negotiating session with Hamas leaders (if we ever talk with them) by asking: "Do you know how far behind your kids are?" That might actually work better than: "Why don't you recognize Israel?"

Indeed, Islam is one of the world's great monotheistic faiths, but it is not the answer to Arab development today. Math is the answer. Education is the answer. Getting the Middle East to focus on that would do more to further our interests and their prosperity than anything else. As we are seeing in Egypt, suddenly creating a mass

democracy without improving mass education is highly unstable.

At the same time, as our foreign budget shrinks, more and more of it will have to be converted from traditional grants to "Races to the Top," which Duncan's Education Department pioneered in U.S. school reform. We will have to tell needy countries that whoever comes up with the best ideas for educating their young women and girls or incentivizing start-ups or strengthening their rule of law will get our scarce foreign aid dollars. That race is the future of foreign aid.

Finally, there's a reason that since the end of the Cold War our secretaries of state have racked up more miles than they've made history. Before 1995, the job involved ending or avoiding superpower conflicts and signing big arms control treaties. □

Those were the stuff of heroic diplomacy. Fortunately, today there are fewer big wars to end, and the big treaties now focus more on trade and the environment than nukes — and they're very hard to achieve. Also, today's secretary of state has to deal with so many more failed or failing states. Secretary Hillary Clinton practically had to forge the Syrian opposition groups into a coherent collective, as a necessary precursor to persuading them to do the right things. Today, to make history as a secretary of state, you have to make the countries to deal with first.

In short, we're still indispensable, but the problems are much more intractable. Our allies are not what they used to be and neither are our enemies, who are less superpowers and more superempowered angry men and women. A lot of countries will need to go back to the blackboard, back to the basics of human capacity building, before they can partner with us on anything. □

License to thrill at the LA Auto Show



The BMW i8 Concept is shown at the LA Auto Show in Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

DEE-ANN DURBIN
TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writers

The Los Angeles Auto Show opens to the public Friday. Here are some of the most talked-about vehicles that will be making their world debuts at the event:

MAZDA6 DIESEL: Mazda will offer a diesel version of its new, sportier Mazda6 sedan in the second half of next year. It's not releasing full details yet, but says diesels can get 30-percent better fuel economy than gasoline-powered cars. Mazda says it will be the first Asian automaker to offer a clean diesel engine in a non-commercial vehicle in North America.

SUBARU FORESTER: The new Subaru Forester, which will go on sale this spring, has more leg room and cargo space (74.7 cubic feet) than the previous model of the small SUV. The base 2.5-liter, 170 horsepower engine remains the same, but buyers can also upgrade to a new, 250-horsepower turbocharged 2-liter. The design is less boxy and more aerodynamic, with a new mesh grille and sporty front bumper.

JAGUAR XFR-S: It's the second model in Jag's ultra-high performance lineup, with only 100 being offered for sale in the U.S. during the 2014 model year. It has a 550-horsepower supercharged V-8 engine that

takes it from zero to 60 in 4.4 seconds, yet it avoids a gas-guzzler tax by getting 23 mpg (9.8 kilometers per liter) on the highway. The car starts at \$99,000 and goes on sale early in the summer.

PORSCHE CAYMAN: The third generation of the two-seat mid-engine sports coupe is lower, longer, lighter and faster than the old model, yet more efficient, Porsche says. The base model has a 2.7-liter, 275 horsepower engine, while the sportier Cayman S has a 3.4-liter motor with 325 horsepower.

The S can hit 60 mph (roughly 100 kph) from a standing start in 4.4 seconds. The Cayman goes on sale in the spring and starts at \$52,600.

TOYOTA RAV4: The fourth-generation of Toyota's RAV4, which practically invented the crossover segment when it first went on sale nearly 20 years ago. The latest RAV4 has sharper, more aggressive styling, better fuel economy (up to 31 mpg/13 kpl on the highway), a new six-speed transmission and other features to help it compete against its archrival, the Honda CR-V. The V6 engine option, side-hinged liftgate and optional third-row seat will no longer be offered.

HONDA CIVIC: Honda is showing off a new Civic

compact car, revamped just 19 months after the company introduced the last one.

Honda did a lightning-quick revision of the popular car after realizing that compacts from other automakers had caught and passed the top-selling Civic.

Honda is expected to address criticism that the 2012 model was noisy, cheap-looking and didn't handle or perform as well as older Civics.

FIAT 500e: The Fiat 500 mini-car is bulking up and going

electric. The Italian automaker is showing two new versions of the 500 at the show: An all-electric model that Fiat says will go 80 miles (130 kilometers) when fully charged and a longer, four-door model that seats five and offers twice the room of the tiny 500. The 500e will go on sale in California in the second quarter of 2013, while the elongated 500 will hit dealerships all over the country in the middle of next year.

BMW i3: The battery-powered concept car, which swaps the traditional steel body for lighter carbon fiber, gives some clues about where BMW is going with its first electric car. BMW says the concept car can go 80 to 100 miles on a battery charge. It has a 170 horsepower electric motor and is rear-wheel drive. Battery cells are under the floor, lowering the car's center of gravity for better handling. The cell around the passengers is made of carbon fiber reinforced plastic.

No word on when the car will come to showrooms.

ACURA RLX: It's a new version of the aging big Acura, the RL. The 2014 RLX will have an all-wheel steering system that controls the steering angles for better handling, a new commu-

nications setup and LED headlamps. It's also 275 pounds (124 kilograms) lighter and has a new 310-horsepower V-6 that gets 31 miles per gallon (13 kilometers per liter) on the highway.

The Honda luxury brand says it will deliver a new level of performance, sophistication and comfort.

CHEVROLET SPARK EV: An all-electric mini-car that will go on sale in California, Oregon, Canada and South Korea next summer.

Other markets are expected to follow. General Motors won't release many details, but says the Spark EV will cost less than \$25,000 with a federal tax credit and will go at least as far on a charge as rivals like the Nissan Leaf and Ford Focus EV, which can go more than 70 miles (112 kilometers).

FORD TRANSIT CONNECT WAGON: After a six-year hiatus, Ford gets back into the minivan business with the Transit Connect Wagon. It seats up to seven, has dual sliding doors and will be instantly recognizable thanks to its short size and high roofline. It will get 30-plus miles (48-plus kilometers) to the gallon (3.8 liters) and start around \$20,000. The Transit Connect Wagon goes on sale in the fall. □



The Jaguar F-TYPE is shown during its North American debut at the LA Auto Show in Los Angeles. The annual Los Angeles Auto Show opened to the media Wednesday at the Los Angeles Convention Center. The show opens to the public on Friday, November 30. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson)